



TENANTS LEAVE DOOMED FLATS

Report by Jamie Brassington

MORE than 60 tenants have moved out of four high-rise flats earmarked for demolition by Dudley Council.

A total of 61 residents have moved into new accommodation from Arley, Compton, Wells and Manor Courts in Netherton.

The four tower blocks are set to be knocked down by 2023 in a bid to save money, as the cash-strapped authority deemed them too expensive to keep in operation.

The authority has begun a process to move out all residents and hope to rehome everyone by the end of the year.

But the move has been met with opposition by some residents, who don't want to move out. They made their voices heard at a public meeting last year which saw them put across heated arguments to council officers.

Councillor Gaye Partridge, cabinet member for housing, said: "When we announced plans last year to demolish Arley, Compton, Wells and Manor Courts, we had 194 flats occupied across the four blocks."



Wells Court, Netherton

"Sixty-one households are now in new homes and 30 are waiting to view a property or sign paperwork for their move."

"For those remaining, we are helping in any way we can which includes sending out weekly newsletters and if needed one-to-one support advice and information."

Sustainable

Bosses decided the four blocks, which were built in the 1960s, were no longer sustainable, as they needed a minimum of £9.1 million spent in the short term to get them up to standard.

A public notice published in January stated that the tower blocks would be demolished by December 18, 2023, but is looking to rehome everyone by the start of next year.

Among the residents who are against the authority's plans is Rachel Hill, aged 31, who lives in Arley Court.

She said: "I am in the process of moving out, but I don't want to - this has been my home for the last three years. I started from scratch here."

"I don't want to go. I think the plans by Dudley Council are diabolical, I can't believe it. Some people have been here for years and years."

Across the four blocks there is space for 281 individual flats. The total is broken down to 81 at Arley, 86 at Compton, 62 at Wells and 47 at Manor.

BEAUTIFUL BONNETS TO BOOST FUNDRAISING



Kellie Bates, of Lower Gornal, and her son Matthew and some of the Easter bonnets she had made to raise money for people with Williams Syndrome

A MOTHER whose five-year-old son has Williams Syndrome is making Easter bonnets to help raise money for those with the condition.

Kellie Bates, 36, from Lower Gornal, has a wide range of designs, including Minnie Mouse and the Minions, to be sold at school and nursery parades in the area.

It's the second year running she has made bonnets and last year £200 was donated to the Williams Syndrome Foundation, which provides support for people like Kellie's son, Matthew, who is a pupil at Woodseton School.

"I am on target to raise more money this time," said Kellie.

Williams Syndrome - a non-hereditary condition - affects one in around 18,000 people in the UK and causes distinctive facial features and a range of learning difficulties.

To view the wide range of the colourful bonnets, search for Kel's Easter bonnets on Facebook.

HEALTH

MP tells of blood poisoning battle

DUDLEY South MP Mike Wood has revealed how he almost died after being struck down by blood poisoning.

The Conservative MP was placed in an induced coma after developing sepsis.

He initially had a sore throat but continued to deteriorate to the point doctors feared he may die.

Mr Wood, who was elected Dudley South MP at the 2015 general election, is now battling back to recovery.

He even managed to return to the House of Commons for Monday's crucial Brexit vote.

CHARITY

Albion award for fundraiser Dave

BLACK Country charity fundraiser Blind Dave Heeley has been awarded the Freedom of The Hawthorns at a star-studded dinner in recognition of his extraordinary efforts on behalf of West Brom's club charity the Albion Foundation.

Head coach Tony Pulis and captain Darren Fletcher presented him with a symbolic key to the ground of his beloved Baggies at a surprise climax to Monday's celebration of the Foundation's 25th anniversary.

POLICE

Man fighting for life after stabbing

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a man was stabbed in Netherton.

The 28-year-old was in a serious condition in hospital after suffering multiple stab wounds near Netherton Health Centre on Halesowen Road at around midnight on Sunday.

Trouble flared on the corner of Crossley Street and residents reported seeing a gang of around five people in the street shouting before police arrived.

Detectives have appealed for witnesses to contact them on 101.

● Residents worried - see page 3

INSIDE

HEAVEN SENT SINGER EMELI



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Town hall boost to attract more shows



Jasper Carrott at town hall

AN overhaul of Dudley Town Hall could see more shows held at the venue to make the concert hall 'viable'. Council documents have also stated that the landmark venue could be 'controlled by another organisation'. The revamp would see a new kitchen and conference area added. Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for leisure, said: "It has always been my ambition to get as much night time economy as day time in Dudley. The town hall needs to be playing its part in this and we want to bring more people to the town to enjoy it."

"At this stage it would be all in-house managed but there is nothing ruled in or nothing ruled out for the future. Anything that we can do to make the town hall better we will do, as it will be important for growth in Dudley. "We need a kitchen area there as that will be another opportunity to enhance catering and to be able to hold conferences. "We want to bring more shows in and have already taken on a dedicated officer to do this." Dudley Town Hall, built in 1928, is the largest concert venue in the borough.

Council documents state: "Work is being undertaken to see how the site might be made viable (cost neutral) as an entertainment venue." Jasper Carrott will be bringing his Stand Up and Rock show to the St James's Road venue on April 21 and 22. It was recently announced that three of the original members of 1981 Eurovision Song Contest winners Bucks Fizz will be performing at the town hall on June 29. Cheryl Baker, Mike Nolan and Jay Aston are billed as 'formerly of Bucks Fizz' for the Make Believe tour. Comedienne Jenny Eclair visits on May 18.

Grieving mother joining seatbelt safety move

SUKHI Atwal knows from tragic personal experience the dangers of not wearing a seatbelt.

Her 12-year-old son Amar was sat unbuckled in the back of a car when it was involved in an horrific crash when a taxi kept going at a give-way junction and smashed into the side of the vehicle.

The force of the impact threw the football-loving schoolboy from the car and he died in hospital two days later from 'devastating' brain injuries.

Now his brave mother, who was not in the car at the time, has agreed to speak out about the importance of wearing a seatbelt as part of a police campaign.

Mrs Atwal will visit schools and speak to drivers and passengers as part of a week-long awareness campaign by West Midlands Police.

Amar was in a relative's Mitsubishi Outlander when it was struck by the Vauxhall Astra taxi in Hollyhedge Road, Stone Cross, in May 2015.

His 12-year-old cousin, who was also in the car, also suffered serious injuries but survived.

Jailed

Taxi driver Nadeem Hussain, 35, from Dudley, was jailed for six years in December for causing death by dangerous driving.

Amar was a footballer with Willenhall-based Sporting Khalsa and attended Queen Mary's Grammar School in Walsall.

Mrs Atwal, from Great Barr, said: "We will never get over the loss of Amar. He was such a bright, intelligent, fun-loving boy. He was an innocent victim of the crash and there is now a huge hole which can never be filled in our lives."

"Wearing a seatbelt could have saved his life. At the very least it would have given him a better chance of survival."

"We can never get Amar back but I just hope by encouraging both young and old to try and be as safe as possible they won't have to go through the heartbreak we have."

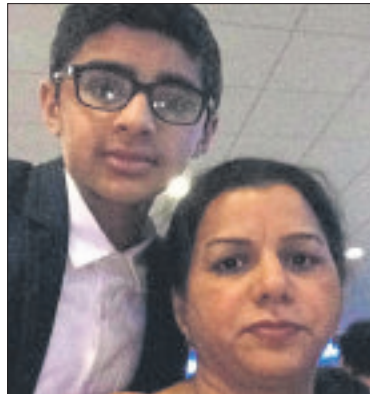
Mrs Atwal will join traffic officers and West Midlands Police Special Constable Clive Broadhurst, who campaigns on seatbelt safety at schools across the region, as part of an international seatbelt awareness campaign, which runs until Friday.

She will be at a roadside checkpoint urging motorists to make sure all passengers wear seatbelts and that youngsters are safely strapped in child car seats.

Constable Broadhurst has also produced a heart-felt video featuring images of Amar and his mother that will be used during school presentations..



Hussain's taxi hurtled into the car at the junction, turning it over and resulting in Amar's death



Mrs Atwal with son Amar, who died from his injuries



Dudley taxi driver Hussain was jailed for six years

Jail for man who held a syringe to drivers' necks

A ROBBER who held a syringe, which he claimed was 'infected with Aids', to the neck of taxi drivers in the Black Country has been jailed for seven years.

David Purcell left two cabbies terrified when he threatened them with the needle and stole money from them in attacks last summer.

The 31-year-old from Halesowen first struck on June 6 when he got into a taxi on Cloister Drive and held a syringe he claimed was infected with Aids to the driver's neck.

He demanded cash and fled on foot after the petrified cabbie handed it over. On July 14 he repeated the crime, this time threatening a driver with the infection on Shenstone Avenue.

Neither victim was injured in the robberies.

Purcell, from Hamilton Avenue, was caught out when police worked with the owner of the cab firm and linked the phone number that had ordered the taxis to the mobile owned by the criminal.

The device was found on Purcell when he was arrested three weeks later.

Detective Constable Sean Lowe, who led the investigation for West Midlands Police, praised the bravery of the victims for coming forward and identifying Purcell.

"These serious offences understandably caused a lot of concern amongst cab drivers in the area," he said.

Purcell was charged with two counts of robbery and jailed at Wolverhampton Crown Court on March 1.

Society milestone meeting at Portal

THE Black Country Society's annual general meeting will be held before its next lecture at Dudley Canal Trust's The Portal, off Birmingham New Road, on Wednesday, March 22.

The society also plans to show Black Country films made in the 1960s and centred on the Turks Head pub in Brierley Hill.

The illustrated lecture by Roger Butler will be about a canal trip in the West Midlands in the 1970s, a nostalgic journey along local canals and the River Severn.

The 50th Annual General Meeting will take place before the lecture.

The evening starts at 7.30pm with admission £2 for non-members.

Call to relatives of Coseley man

A CALL has gone out for relatives of the late Terrence Clark to get in touch with the Black Country coroner.

Mr Clark was found at his home in Rounds Hill Road, Coseley, on Sunday.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Starter homes for first time buyers

COUNCIL bosses have revealed that work could begin in September to build 79 starter homes on the sites of community centres and a care home. Dudley Council is aiming the properties at first time buyers and will be selling them at a 20 per cent discount. The cash-strapped authority also hopes to make £1.8 million profit. The sites are at former community centres, the Mere Centre in Stourbridge, Turner House at Wrens Nest and St Thomas Network in Dudley, plus the site of Amblecote House care home.

Stolen Jag was found at scrapyard

A STOLEN Jaguar car has been recovered from a scrapyard in the Brierley Hill area. West Midlands Police officers from Stourbridge were out on Saturday morning conducting routine enquiries when they came across the X-type and are making enquiries as to how it ended up there. The Stourbridge Police team posted on Twitter: "Team out doing arrest enquiries this morning located a stolen Jaguar x-type at a salvage yard in Brierley Hill. Vehicle has been recovered."

Club to relaunch as a gay venue

THE former Rock Zombie nightclub is set to re-open as a venue aimed at the gay scene, called Bar Diva. Businessman Christopher Marson has confirmed that he has the keys to the venue and work has begun on renovation. He said: "If all goes to plan then we'll open on April 14. We're just waiting on the licence. The keys have been handed over so the venue is now in my hands. We're just trying to change it all around at the moment."

Ambulance window is smashed by yob

AN ambulance chief has spoken of his outrage after a rock was thrown at paramedics rushing an elderly patient to hospital. It smashed through the passenger window of the ambulance in the early hours of Sunday, as they drove on the A449 near Hartlebury. Medics had to wait for another ambulance to convey the critically ill patient to Worcester-shire Royal Hospital. Safety manager Steve Elliker said: "I just couldn't believe that anyone would do this."

Gardens science day

A COMMUNITY garden in Dudley is hosting a science day this weekend. Jasmine Road Community Gardens, in Kates Hill, holds the event on Saturday between 11am and 4pm. There will be displays, workshops, food and a chance to learn about the science of growing plants.

Now get on with it, MPs tell Prime Minister

MPS have called on the Prime Minister to 'get on' with Brexit after a historic night in Parliament.

Dudley MPs Ian Austin and Mike Wood both said Theresa May should now start Britain's exit from the European Union as MPs and Lords last night voted on whether to trigger Article 50 – the formal mechanism for leaving the European Union.

Conservative Dudley South MP Mike Wood made his first appearance in the Commons while recovering from a life-threatening illness to support the Government.

He said: "There is speculation that the Prime Minister will trigger Article 50 by the end of the month. I think we have reached the point where there is nothing to gain from further delay."

"Everything is now in place and we need to get on with negotiating the best possible deal for Britain. We face some very tough and challenging negotiations. The fact they will be hard underlines why it was wrong for MPs and Lords to tie the Prime Minister's hands by putting conditions on what she could do."

"Placing those restrictions on the Prime Minister would clearly hinder our ability to get the best possible deal."

Labour Dudley North MP Ian Austin agreed he did not want any further delays.

He said: "Whether or not I've got confidence in Theresa May isn't the issue. I've got confidence in the people I represent and the British people. I respect them and the result of the referendum so I voted to trigger Article 50."

Deal

"I don't want any delays I'm crystal clear. I want Theresa May to get on with it."

"I'm working hard to get the best deal for Dudley. Local people tell me that jobs must be the top priority, followed by NHS funding and immigration."

"I want a deal that helps local firms and brings new jobs to Dudley and I want the Government to guarantee that they'll replace the grants we currently get from the EU, especially the £50 million the Black Country gets each year for skills and training."

The comments came as MPs voted on the final stages of the EU Withdrawal Bill in the Commons on Monday night.

The legislation had initially been voted through last month but went back before the Commons after it was rejected in the House of Lords.

Delays predicted during gas work

GAS works are expected to cause disruption on a busy road in Brierley Hill for the next three weeks. Temporary traffic lights will be up on Leys Road, Brockmoor, until the end of the month.

Bus station revamp links to Metro stop

A MAJOR £9 million revamp of Dudley bus station, which will see it linked to the Midland Metro, is expected within five years.

Work to improve the town's outdated bus station has been in the pipeline since 2014 but the project was put on hold last year.

Dudley Council's regeneration boss now says that work could start before 2022.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic regeneration at Dudley Council, said the delay was down to the project becoming much bigger after it was tied in with the Metro.

The Metro is due to be extended to Dudley and Brierley Hill.

The project is a joint operation between Dudley Council, the Midland Metro Alliance (MMA) and Network West Midlands.

Councillor Ahmed said the plans were in the 'very early stages'.

MMA, which is working on behalf of the West Midlands Combined Authority, expects work on the tram route to begin in 2019 and for the new route to be open for passengers by 2023.

Councillor Ahmed said: "There are clear plans, which are absolutely great for Dudley. I expect the terminal to be built much quicker than 2022. The tram will travel up Castle Hill, go along Castle Street and will come through Dudley bus station."

He added: "The people of Dudley have been deprived for too long and it is not acceptable. It will be a great hub of transport and will transform the area. The opportunities are huge."

The terminal will be compromised of a redeveloped bus station, which will alone cost £6,830,000.

The tram stop will be part of the new Midland Metro line to be built between Brierley Hill and Wednesbury.

The terminal would allow passengers to catch bus and tram services in close proximity, allowing them more direct links to travel across the region.

The Metro will use the old railway line for part of the route servicing Great Bridge, Dudley Port, Dudley town centre, the Waterfront and Merry Hill, before terminating in Brierley Hill town centre.

Primary school to have fresh start as academy

A PRIMARY school and nursery that was put into special measures will move away from council control.

Woodside Community School and Little Bears Nursery in Dudley will be converted into an academy.

Concerns that led to its 'inadequate' Ofsted rating included widespread underachievement, exclusions because of physical violence, and below average attendance levels.

They were revealed following the school's last full inspection in 2015. As part of an interim visit in July last year, the education watchdog said the school had made improvements but it remained in special measures.

It will now be taken over by the Hales Valley Academy Trust from April 1.

Dudley Council's cabinet member for children's services, Councillor Ian Cooper, said: "The school had a disappointing Ofsted result but acknowledges the findings of the report and is already working towards addressing areas highlighted by inspectors."

"When schools do not secure a favourable Ofsted grading it is standard practice for them to be encouraged along the academy route by the Department for Education to help them continue to raise standards."

"We are continuing to work closely with the school and their sponsors to ensure they share our expectation for putting the welfare and education of children first."

Lease

As part of the new arrangements the local authority will grant a lease of the site to the academy trust – lasting 125 years with a peppercorn rent.

In total, there are 82 employees, which includes teaching and local government staff, whose roles will be transferred to the trust.

Woodside Community Centre, which is within the boundary of the school site, will be retained by the council.

In their last full inspection report, published in June 2015, Ofsted inspectors said: "There is widespread underachievement at Key Stage 2. Standards at the end of Year 6 are low. The number of pupils excluded is well above average. Attendance is below average."

But in its most recent report, in July, Ofsted said: "Pupils' behaviour has improved and standards in the lower part of the school are rising. This is because expectations are higher and communicated with greater clarity."

Residents worried after man stabbed



A police cordon blocked access across the road where the stabbing took place in Netherton on Sunday

A MAN is fighting for his life in hospital after being stabbed in Netherton.

The 28-year-old was in a serious condition after suffering multiple stab wounds near Netherton Health Centre on Halesowen Road.

Trouble flared on the corner of Crossley Street at around midnight on Sunday.

Residents reported seeing a gang of around five people in the

street and heard shouting and screaming.

The victim was reportedly seen staggering to his feet before police arrived on the scene.

Crossley Street was cordoned off on Monday as officers searched the area to try to piece together what happened.

Detective Inspector Colin Mattinson from West Midlands Police CID said: "Investigations are ongoing at the scene. Officers are

carrying out forensic examinations and CCTV inquiries."

"We are asking if anyone was in the vicinity of the health centre in Halesowen Road and who saw what happened or has any information, to contact police on 101."

A resident, who did not want to be named, said: "I heard the commotion, kids running up and down the road screaming." Another resident said: "I'm thinking of moving. I don't feel safe in my home."

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COUNTY NEWS

2,000 abusive calls made to 999 staff

HARSHER penalties need to be brought in to protect ambulance control room workers from abusive callers, union chiefs have said.

It comes after figures revealed call handlers with West Midlands Ambulance Service received almost 2,000 abusive calls between 2013 and 2016.

Figures revealed hundreds of verbal attacks across the country in the past three years including threats to kill, and racist and sexual slurs. The union Unison has now urged the Government to bring in tougher punishments to deter abusive callers.

Apprenticeships route for pupils

TWO thirds of pupils in the West Midlands aged between 16 and 18 say they will consider an apprenticeship after leaving school as a route into employment. The figures have been released in a study from the Association of Accounting Technicians (ATT).

The survey showed 47 per cent of 16-30-year-olds in the region think an apprenticeship could fast track their careers over university.

In hindsight, more than two thirds, 68 per cent, of degree holders in the region would now consider an alternative route into employment.

Meeting on future of GP services

THE public are invited to the upcoming Primary Care Commissioning Committee meeting, held by the Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group.

The role of the committee is to ensure collective decisions on planning, developing, delivering, monitoring and managing of the budget for GP services across Dudley, under delegated authority from NHS England.

The meeting is at 1pm tomorrow (Friday) at Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre on Venture Way. Email lindsey.harding@dudleyccg.nhs.uk for details.

JLR boss calls for free and fair trade

THE chief executive of Jaguar Land Rover says the business will continue to need 'free and fair trade' with Europe following Brexit. Speaking at the Geneva Motor Show, Dr Ralf Speth said Europe was the most important market for JLR as it sells 120,000 cars a year in Europe, which also supplied essential components.

JLR, with its engine manufacturing centre at Wolverhampton, unveiled its revolutionary Range Rover Velar and Jaguar I-PACE Concept electric car.

Ians at the double

A SINGER/SONGWRITER from Kidderminster is supporting singer Ian McCulloch at the Robin 2 in Bilston.

The Echo and the Bunnyman frontman has a solo concert in the club on May 9. Ian Passey, who records and performs as The Humdrum Express, will be playing before him.

University first with policing degree

THE University of Wolverhampton is set to become one of the first in the country to offer a degree apprenticeship in policing.

The Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship will be rolled out nationally from September 2017 and the University of Wolverhampton has been instrumental in developing the new programme.

Sharon Gander, lecturer in policing

in the faculty of social sciences, has been working with the College of Policing to develop a series of new policing qualifications, which also include a new policing degree from 2019 and a graduate conversion course.

She said: "I am delighted to be involved in the apprenticeship trailblazer group development of the new policing degree apprenticeship that will be rolled out nationally."

"The professional body for policing is introducing academic recognition for its existing workforce and this is a fantastic opportunity for the university to be directly involved in developing a practical qualification which combines on-the-job training while studying towards a high level qualification."

The university opened an apprenticeship hub last year providing a

venue for potential apprentices, employers and learning providers.

Having been awarded £250,000 funding from the Higher Education Funding Council, the University is developing a range of new degree apprenticeships in a variety of subjects to support the need for skills in areas such as law, engineering, digital technology, leadership and management, policing and nursing.

'Rat-run' speed limit is reduced to 40mph

By Richard Guttridge

THE speed limit on a rat-run linking Stourbridge and Halesowen will be reduced to 40mph over safety concerns.

Wynall Lane South, Lutley Lane, Wassell Grove Road and Foxcote Lane will all be reduced from the national speed limit.

Safety experts say the change was needed due to fears that vehicles travelling at 60mph posed a risk to cyclists and pedestrians.

Highways bosses insist the speed reduction will make it safer for people who live on the roads but ward councillors have raised concerns it has not gone far enough.

Councillor Richard Body said the roads were 'still too dangerous' despite the lower speed limit.

Councillors and residents had called for action over claims drivers are not slowing down enough when entering the residential area at the end of Wynall Lane South and Lutley Lane.

Councillor Body said the amount of traffic using the lanes had increased dramatically in recent years and called for a 30mph limit.

Ignore

But chiefs said decided against it as it was thought drivers would ignore the slower limit.

The stretch links Brook Holloway, Stourbridge, with the Hagley Road and is often used by drivers heading towards the M5. Flashing signs will go up along the lanes to remind those going too fast of the new speed limit.

Dudley Council environment boss Hilary Bills said: "It's used as a rat-run to avoid Grange island and traffic around Halesowen. People were travelling too quickly when they left the rat-run and went through the residential areas."

"When they hit the 30 either end they weren't slowing down and were going too quickly. We can put up repeater signs so people remember they're supposed to be going at 40. It is expected that the signs will be up in a couple of months."

Councillor Body, who represents Cradley and Wollescote, said: "Even at 40mph it is too quick."

Fee-fi-fo-fun! Stars back for panto



Best Pantomime Newcomer in the Great British Pantomime Awards, Doreen Tipton will be at the Grand again

THERE will be plenty of fe-fi-fo-fun in store at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre later this year as the cast of this year's panto Jack and the Beanstalk was revealed.

Singer Gareth Gates will take the title role as Jack, with 'Queen of the Black Country' Doreen Tipton and Loose Women's Lisa Riley making a return to the Grand's stage.

It comes hot on the heels of Doreen being named Best Pantomime Newcomer in the Great British Pantomime Awards after her first appearance at the Lichfield Street theatre last festive season when she played the Empress of China in the production of Aladdin.

Dame Trott will be played by Ian Adams and Adam C Booth will also be making a return to the Grand as he

takes on the role of Simple Simon. Jack and the Beanstalk will run from December 9 to January 14, 2018.

Last year's panto saw more than 60,000 people visit the theatre, smashing previous box office records and grossing £100,000 more than the previous year's production of Peter Pan. This year it is hoped even more people will visit the classic story of Jack and his gigantic adventures in the land of the giant.

Scott Bird, sales and marketing manager at The Grand, said: "It's a really exciting time for us as we develop what the Grand Theatre pantomime offers the region and it's lovely to be earning significant recognition along the way."

Tickets cost from £17.50 to £38. Call 01902 429 212.

The life of a much-loved minister is celebrated

THE life and work of a much-loved Methodist minister were celebrated at a moving funeral service.

Around 400 people packed Darlington Street Methodist Church in Wolverhampton, where the Reverend Tony Kinch had been superintendent minister for 27 years.

Among the mourners were Wolverhampton MP Rob Marris, who described the clergyman as 'a big personality', and the city's mayor Councillor Barry Findlay, who read a lesson.

Rev Kinch, who was 76, held several offices in the church, and was also involved in charities and in civic life. He was remembered most for his work with the homeless and for bringing different faiths together.

The father-of-two, who died at Compton Hospice last month from a brain tumour, had been a qualified football referee, chairman of advocacy at the National Children's Home charity, chairman and president of Age UK Wolverhampton and chaplain to four of the city's mayors.

Rev Dr Caroline Wickens, of Dudley and Netherton ministry, spoke of how Mr Kinch had started his ministry there in 1966, living in a high-rise flat opposite one of the churches for four years, and returning to Netherton again later to help out 'when we were in a bit of a mess.' She added: "He left a legacy of vibrant faith in God, working right up against the rough edges of the real world."

The service was led by superintendent minister David Lavender.

American football team back charity

AN American football team in Sandwell has announced a new charity partner, after raising £2,000 for Sandwell-based charities last year.

Sandwell Steelers is teaming up with the Buddy Bag Foundation, which was created in response to the rising number of children entering care due to violent situations at home.

Founder Karen Williams said: "We are delighted that the Sandwell Steelers have agreed to support us this year. It will make a huge difference and we are really looking forward to going to watch their games and getting involved in their activities. The Buddy Bag Appeal has gone from strength to strength since we began in 2015. We have provided a backpack filled with essential items to 6,510 children."

Actor visits college's new drama facilities

AN actor returned to his old college to see the new £3m performing arts facilities. Liam Jeavons, from BBC TV drama WPC 56, visited Halesowen College with other former drama students to help launched the drama facilities and share experiences.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Volunteer appeal at historic houses

THE Rock Houses and surrounding countryside of Kinver Edge are seeking volunteers to bring them to life in their centenary year.

The Rock Houses, Kinver, are celebrating 100 years of National Trust management, with a busy calendar of events and daily openings during the school holidays. They need extra helpers to join the team to welcome visitors.

Volunteer drop-in days will be held at the Rock Houses tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday (March 25) for people to find out more.

Piano pupils play in church concert

A VILLAGE church concert will take place in aid of two good causes.

A total of 15 piano students will be performing at the concert on Saturday, April 8, to raise money for a piano scholarship at Kinver High School.

The performer will also be helping to contribute towards supporting the fabric of St Peter's Church in Kinver, where the concert is being held. The church dates back to the 11th Century.

Tickets are available from Kinver High School by calling (01384) 686900 or on 07838705164.

Community centre ahead of schedule

A LONG-AWAITED community centre in Dudley is nearing completion.

Dudley's North Priory Community Centre is being built beside Donkey Pool playing fields, off Priory Road, and could be open ahead of its May due date.

Residents have been calling for the facility for nearly 10 years, after the previous centre was demolished. Leading that campaign has been Councillor Ken Finch, who said: "It's really starting to look impressive now."

Comedians stand up for local cancer charity

A STAND-UP comedy night is being held to raise funds for White House Cancer Support in Dudley.

Gary Delaney, who is married to comedy star Sara Millican, is headlining the event at the Quality Hotel on Birmingham Road, which is being organised by Can Comedy.

Also appearing will be master of ceremonies Jim Bayes, Dave Longley and Karen Bailey.

Tickets are £12 and are available by calling 07801 814169.

Postcode lottery win

THREE residents from a Dudley street have won £1,000 each after taking part in the People's Postcode Lottery.

The Dudley postcode, DY2 9SN, came up which saw the lottery's members from Cradley Road awarded a share of the cash pot.

Fatal garage fire sparked by cigarette



Colin Dunn – fire tragedy

A FATHER-OF-TWO died in a house blaze after investigating smoke in his 'man cave' garage at a village near Stourbridge.

Retired hairdresser Colin Dunn had been out celebrating his granddaughter's birthday on the afternoon of November 13. Later that day he smoked a cigarette in the garage, described as his 'man cave', at his home in Six Ashes Road, Bobbington. Fire investigators believe that led to the fire.

Around an hour later, 72-year-old Mr Dunn went back in to the garage to investigate after smoke started coming through a vent in the kitchen, but he was immediately overcome by the fire. His wife of 52

years, Christine told police officers 'He's in there, I know he's gone', according to Pc Miles Dolan who gave evidence at an inquest in Cannock.

A family statement issued after the hearing said: "Colin was a wonderful kind family man, devoted to his wife, two daughters and four granddaughters. As a family, we are truly devastated by the sudden and tragic way in which he has died."

After 999 calls were made around 6.50pm on the day, four fire crews attended the scene.

Watch Commander James McDonald, of West Midlands Fire Service investigation

team, said: "The fire was well developed. Most of the roof had collapsed into the garage. The fire was spreading to adjacent properties."

Mr McDonald told the hearing they were able to determine the flames had started near the settee in the garage with the suspected source being Mr Dunn's cigarette. The investigator confirmed Mr Dunn would have been overcome very quickly.

Assistant Coroner for South Staffordshire Margaret Jones ruled Mr Dunn's death as 'misadventure' while the medical cause was carbon monoxide poisoning and conflagration.

Call for tougher action after rubbish dumped

THREE lorry loads of rubbish were dumped on a track in private woodland near Stourbridge, leaving the owner with a five-figure clean-up bill.

The tons of commercial pre-sorted rubbish, mainly plastic, was tipped on the track off Bridgnorth Road in Stourton last Tuesday (March 7).

A passer-by spotted the fly-tippers, who not only used the rubbish-filled lorries but also a car to keep watch.

He was chased off by the occupants in the car who came out wearing balaclavas.

The incident was on the opposite side of the road to the Fox Inn on land owned by the Enville Estate. Assistant estate manager George Williams said: "Someone driving by saw a lorry drive into the gateway so called up our office. The passer-by turned round and parked up in the gateway to take photos, as he did this a group of men with balaclavas chased him off."

On Friday, the Environment Agency inspected the rubbish, which will take several weeks to move. Staffordshire Police was also called to the incident and are investigating.

Mr Williams said the estate, which covers 6,500 acres, is targeted by fly-tippers every week. Distances range from a lone fridge freezer to 34 tons of commercial waste dumped in 2013.

Frustration

He said: "Recently the local council has increased the fees to take your household rubbish to the tip, this is only going to increase the amount of fly tipping in the area. The fines have gone up but they are still not deterring people from dumping rubbish. It is a real frustration for landowners, who are left paying to clear up the waste."

The Country Land and Business Association (CLBA) has called for stronger action in the wake of the growing fly-tipping menace. The group wants more resources put in to tackling down culprits and reducing council fees to legally dispose waste.

CLBA regional director Caroline Bedell said: "Fly tipping on the scale seen last week is unfortunately the latest in an increasing number of similar incidents. This is not an opportunist crime but a highly organised criminal operation and should be treated as such by the authorities, who must use the powers they already have to bring the perpetrators to justice."

"If decided in a Crown Court, the offence can attract an unlimited fine and up to five years imprisonment, but with so few prosecutions, there is little deterrent. This must change."



The huge pile of rubbish dumped on the Enville Estate, off the Bridgnorth Road near Stourbridge

PCC wants a halt on specials decline

THE number of special constables on the West Midlands beat has fallen dramatically.

Figures show scores quitting every year and only a handful recruited to replace them. Last year a new low was reached with 78 leaving and just two recruited.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson described special constables as having 'a valuable

role' and has urged the chief constable to stem the exodus.

More than 1,000 people have applied to become Police Community Support Officers, which is a paid, usually full-time post, following a recruitment drive in the West Midlands. Special constables are unpaid volunteers.

In the last five years the number of specials has fallen by two-thirds, from 568 across the West

Midlands region in 2012 to just 199. A head count last month showed that just 12 were based at Sandwell, six at Wolverhampton, five at Dudley and three at Walsall.

Special constables are required to volunteer a minimum of four hours a week. They are intended to form a link between the regular police and their local community.

Smaller tax rise means more cuts – finance boss

MORE cuts will have to be made in Dudley after a 4.99 per cent council tax increase was voted down, the Labour council's finance chief warns.

The defeated Labour group said it will have £1.1 million less to spend on services after the council tax increase was dropped to 3.99 per cent following an amendment from the Tories and UKIP.

Cabinet member for finance Councillor David Sparks said: "The meeting descended into farce, with UKIP backing a Tory motion to raise council tax by four per cent when at the beginning of the meeting they had said they would not raise council tax under any circumstances."

"And the Tories backed a UKIP proposal to bring a private company in to look for savings, after they had said at the beginning of the meeting they were against use of consultants."

"As a result of this farce, Dudley is now in a less secure financial position. We will have to make cuts we wouldn't have had to."

At Monday's five hour council meeting Conservative spokesman for finance, Councillor Steve Clark, put forward his party's amendment for a council tax rise of 3.99 per cent, and for council elections every four years, starting May 2018. Although initially lost, it was later supported as a motion with a UKIP amendment requesting the authority source a private company to deliver savings of five per cent from procurement over the next three years, paid on results.

Easter survey on traffic at the tip

A TRAFFIC assessment will be carried out at Stourbridge tip to see how many people are using it – ahead of its possible closure.

The tip on Birmingham Street is set to shut and operations move to Brierley Hill, under controversial plans from Dudley Council.

Environment chiefs have revealed there will be a traffic count over Easter – one of the busiest times for the tip – to give planners an idea how many people will use the new site.

It comes after Dudley Council was criticised over the plans, particularly from people in Stourbridge and Halesowen, who fear traffic chaos on the roads around Brierley Hill and the Merry Hill shopping centre as a result of the move.

Village's spring market planned

CLENT Village Spring Market takes place next Saturday, March 25.

The event will be at Clent Parish Hall from 2pm to 4.30pm.

There will be stalls selling crafts, jewellery and cards.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Call me a cynic but this doesn't seem smart

LAUNCHING the Government's much-vaunted "Midlands Engine" in Dudley, Chancellor Philip Hammond said one of the region's key strengths was that 92 per cent of the UK's population could get to the Midlands within four hours.

Given that he has defined the Midlands as everywhere from Grimsby to the Welsh border, that probably doesn't come as too much of a surprise.

So why did he choose to launch the project in Dudley? Was it to announce a multi-billion rail connection between the town and HS2? A huge retail development to revive the dying town centre? A new media city to rival the one at Salford?

Er, not exactly. He said a "smart ticket" system would operate on the railways by 2018, which is great news considering Dudley doesn't actually have a rail service.

He also said there would be more "smart motorways". Call me a cynic, but anything "smart" in the title is usually a euphemism for "doesn't work."

Like the "smart gas meters" which have just been found to have given incorrect readings, or the "smart televisions" which have been hacked by the security services.

Mr Hammond announced an investment of £25 million investment to reduce traffic congestion in the Black Country, which sounds a lot. Until you compare it to the £10 million which is being committed to upgrading the railway station at Birmingham University, or another £10 million on upgrading Symphony Hall.

Same old story there then. And how will the £25 million be used?

"The funding will provide improved access to employment sites and create a safe environment for people to walk or cycle," said the report.

It might be called the Midlands Engine. But for those of us in the Black Country, it looks like we will still have to pedal ourselves.

□□□

MIND you, chairman of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership says the Midlands Engine will help "change the face" of the Black Country.

Stewart Towe said: "New build specialist training facilities to support hands-on skills development, new homes for our residents and investment in infrastructure will connect all these fantastic people."

I've no idea what that means, but I presume it's positive.

□□□

THAT said, the Chancellor can't really win, can he? For years the Government has been berated for savage cuts, no money for public services. So last week he announced a tax rise, and sparked a mutiny.

It's the old age story. Everybody wants more investment in public services. As long as somebody else foots the bill.

Labour leader is yet another out-of-touch politician



Jeremy Corbyn – who may not be getting the full picture when it comes to his support



No funny business – Lenny Henry gets serious in the latest series of Broadchurch



Eye-opener – A Radio 4 interview with Lord Falconer is illuminating for all the wrong reasons

Corbyn's delusion matches Thatcher's

HUMOUR is a strange thing. It seems to work best when someone else comes a cropper, especially if that person is in a position of authority, and a delicate part of the body is involved. A North Country accent helps, too. This week, a police inspector in Burnley is reported to be recovering after being bitten on the bottom by his own police dog. Sniggering yet?

If you ever doubted the need for more grammar schools, as proposed this week, look no further than Google where you will find thousands of references to "grammar school" including this query from a lady on Mumsnet: "Would my dyslexic child thrive at grammar school?" Proberbably.

FOR the second time since they were issued, I have discovered a lost £5 note in a pocket. I can only conclude that a) the new fiver is thinner than the old one and easier to miss, or b) subconsciously we regard anything plastic as worthless.

THE most I have ever found in a long-unused pocket was a princely £38 on holiday in Devon. There is something wonderfully easily-spendable about money you didn't know you had. Any tales of unexpected bounty in the trouser department, so to speak?

YOU have to admire the sheer imagination that has gone into casting the new series of Broadchurch (ITV). It is a gritty, wine-making cop drama, examining the brutal, humiliating offence of rape. Surprisingly, the cast includes three great comedians: Charlie Higson from the Fast Show, Lenny Henry and Roy Hudd. Higson admits he was "amazed" to get the part of Ian. If this series ends in court, who will hear the case – Judge Rinder?

LONG ago, just before the Thatcher gov-

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



ernment launched the hated poll tax, I met a Tory election candidate who said: "Wherever I go, people tell me the poll tax is the fairest tax they've ever known." It emerged that "wherever I go" was a number of Conservative Clubs he had visited on his campaign trail. So a Tory candidate hears support for a Tory tax from the Tory faithful. I was reminded of him this week when Jeremy Corbyn, apparently unmoved by the nightmare of Copeland and Labour's disastrous polls, warned us not to underestimate support for his party across the country. How can he be so deluded? Probably because wherever Corbyn goes, he hears his loyal supporters chanting "Jeremy!" and applauding his policies. It is easy to kid yourself that the wide-eyed activists you meet are just ordinary folk and that when they chant your name in adulation it is the authentic voice of Britain. It ain't.

SOME Cambridge students recently objected to "cultural appropriation" of national dishes (Jamaican stew, Tunisian rice, etc) on their college menu. A reader writes to tell me he has recently discovered that shepherds pies do not contain real shepherds, and to whom should he complain?

WE are always being urged to support local businesses which explains why Mrs Rhodes and I eschewed McDonald's and Costa this week and lunched at ye olde local tearshoppe. I ordered a small coffee and got a large one. I asked for a pain au chocolat and was given a croissant and jam. Mrs Rhodes ordered soup which took 25 minutes to arrive, and then only

after reminding the waitress, who avoided eye-contact. Yes, you don't get service like that from the multinationals.

If you visit a firm's website and a page fails to load, you usually get an Americanised apology on the lines of: "Oops, we've boobed!" So I was charmed a few days ago to have this same problem with the Royal Shakespeare Company website, which responded: "No page! How did that happen? We are indeed an ass-head, and a coxcomb, and a knave, a thinfaced knave, a gull!" Will would have approved.

FOR a fascinating insight into political thought processes, catch 'At Lunch with Becky Milligan' (Radio 4) in which the reporter buys a meal for Tony Blair's old pal and former Lord Chancellor, Lord 'Charlie' Falconer. His Lordship doesn't want to talk about Blair. He doesn't seem to know what Labour's immigration policy is. Despite being on an apple-based diet for the past four years, he doesn't know much about apples, although he confides that some are red, some are green and others are both red and green. Falconer's only real concerns seem to be his weight and forming another Labour government: "We have to get back in." He doesn't explain why.

AS a rule I would object to my TV licence fee paying for a wealthy politician's lunch. But the Falconer interview was an education, and therefore money well spent. If any future Labour government needs a Minister of Unillumination, Falconer's your man.

ESCHEWED. That's a word I haven't used for a long time. Anyone got a tissue?

TALKING POINT



Annoying holes are driving us all potty!

THERE they are every morning as I drive into work. They are such a pain, and no matter how many stories we carry about them the problem never seems to go away. Yes you may have already guessed what I am talking about – potholes.

No matter how big – and some are VERY big and deep – or small you can be sure that they are doing some damage to your vehicle.

I have, over recent years, had to have suspension work done on my little car and it is coming to the stage when I dread the next MoT because I just know that it will probably fail and the reason will point back to them.

I know that the councils are facing drastic cutbacks, and obviously issues such as social care need to take priority, but this problem is impacting on people's lives. Some of the potholes are so deep that they can literally make your car unroadworthy, affecting the steering and balancing of the wheels, meaning they are a danger to yourself and other motorists.

I live in a village and travel down country lanes, which obviously do not carry as much traffic as the city centre, but the problems there are just as bad. Maybe this should be reflected in the amount of car tax we pay.

There seems to be plenty of money spent on these sleeping policemen, or speed bumps, whatever you want to call them. I can think of some other words!

Some of them are so high and so close together that they also have an effect on our cars. One lot in Bilbrook did such a lot of damage to a car with a low suspension, that the driver had to find an alternative route to work.

And the many motorists who complained about the height and the number of the ones down Tinacre Hill at Compton now avoid that route altogether. Maybe that was the ideal!

In another area – Goscome – there have been endless complaints about potholes, but nothing done about them.

And I recently read about one roundabout in the Heath Hayes area which has 38 – yes I did say 38 – around it. Unbelievable!

So councils put your hand in your pockets. Forget about more of those annoying speed bumps. Instead put the money to good use and do a proper job of filling in the potholes, not a quick fix job that seems to last five minutes. You know what they say – you only get what you pay for. And at the moment it is the poor motorists who are the ones who are constantly paying out.

From April there will be changes in the car tax rates. I saw on social media the other day a pothole-covered street where one fed-up driver has scrawled in huge letters "What are we paying our tax for?"

I should think most drivers would echo that sentiment.

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Contempt shown for people of Halesowen

IS it not now obvious that those 'in office' on Dudley Council have illustrated their complete and utter contempt for the people of Halesowen?

We are informed that the council wish to shut the leisure centre and now, not content with that, they think that the people of Halesowen should take their 'non collectable' waste to Brierley Hill. May I point out that Halesowen generates a great deal of revenue to the coffers of Dudley Council, yet we are being told that we must absorb more cost by taking our rubbish further afield.

We are being told that the leisure centres at both Halesowen and Stourbridge have had their day. The council want to close these and open multi million pound facilities in the wastelands of Lye.

Now, they have decided that the Pool Road car park is some sort of monolith which needs pulling down. What utter rubbish! Interesting that this car park - perhaps one of the most convenient in the town centre - has all of a sudden become a target for those insistent on making Halesowen a waste land.

Doesn't all this ring alarm bells?

Closing the leisure centre, closing the car park, police station and magistrates courts already gone.

May I inform those who would trifle with the people of Halesowen that we have fought our battles before and won - namely the ill proposed 'smelter plant' in the 1970s. More recently the application for industrial development close to junction 3 of the M5. We don't want your interference. Inflict your idiotic plans on some other more amenable population.

STUART FOX
Halesowen

Treatment of disabled gets on PIP

IT was once known as Disability Allowance for both care and mobility for disabled people.

This has now changed and is known as Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

Or, it should be known as the ripping off the disabled benefit, since the Government decided to hand over power to a set up named Capita, to scrutinise and tell numerous lies in their reports when interviewing genuinely disabled people.

Not only my wife but thousands of others up and down the country have experienced this, just to get people off benefits.

Don't you think they ought to look closer to home to see the amount of benefits and handouts they give to the undeserving who come into the country and never pay a penny?

I feel yet again it is another way of ripping off the great British public, especially the disabled.

STEPHEN FELLOWS
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Duncan would have been proud of family

FURTHER to your recent article about Duncan Edwards' heroic family member, I believe Duncan had a number of heroic and distinguished relatives, all living in Tipton.

One of his uncles, Laurence Edwards, was married to Cora Edwards, one of my eight aunts. I believe Laurence was an RAF pilot in the Battle of Britain. Cora's brother-in-law, my uncle Jack Brimble, was in the Merchant Navy Atlantic convoys. My father, Cora's brother, took part in the Normandy landings. My cousin, John Brimble was a founder member of the Black Country Society, along with others. John was also instrumental in getting a statue of William Perry erected in the Coronation Gardens. He was awarded an OBE.

Members of the extended family were all proud of Duncan, but he too had an family of which he could rightly have been proud.

MICHAEL CLIFF
Wall Heath

Tip move proposal is nonsense

IT has been announced that Dudley Council is planning to close the tip in Stourbridge and move to another location closer to Brierley Hill.

Councillor Hillary Bills says that houses would be built on the Stourbridge site and by moving to Brierley Hill it would eliminate the queues which are now present at the tip in Stourbridge.

Bearing in mind that if the tip was moved to the new location, it would have to be developed to create a new tip.

Well Hillary, there are two large unused car parks next to the existing Stourbridge tip.

Surely it would be cheaper to enlarge the tip to incorporate these two car parks.

And there are also two entrances to the tip, one of which is not used at present by the public.

I think you should get your thinking cap on again on your proposal.

BOB WHITEHOUSE
Kingswinford

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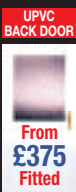
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Conductor Bright lives up to name

Kingswinford Ladies Social Circle

THE AGM was held at The Royal British Legion, Kingswinford, on March 3.

Chairman Sheila Evans welcomed all present including a visitor and the visiting choir. Business matters were read and approved including the re-election of three committee members.

Sheila thanked all members for their loyal support during a difficult year when some members had passed away and several others not enjoying good health. Sadly she announced May Raven had passed away in February. The Christmas meeting will be on December 14. Hopefully a trip will be arranged for later in the year.

Entertainment was provided by The Brand Hall choir with their conductor Tracey Bright, whose name is apt. She is extremely vivacious, a skilled conductor, a talented flautist with a delightful voice. Her red shoes sparked like she did.

During the evening the ladies were entertained with a variety of modern songs and even did The Macarena to the Dum Dum song. Tracey dedicated the Jackson Five song 'I'll Be There' to Audrey Phipps, the Social Circle's late chairman and treasurer who died a year ago and is sadly missed.

The choir was accompanied by guitarist Mike, and he and his wife and other choir members dedicate a lot of their time to working with people with dementia who respond to music.

Two ladies won raffle prizes. The next meeting will be on April 6 at 7.45pm.

Keep fit class follows cinema nostalgia trip



Ladies enjoy their keep fit session in the Cornbow Shopping Precinct in Halesowen

IN February, members were taken back to their childhood days by going to Saturday morning trip with a bag of sherbet dip.

Speaker Ken Sampson gave a talk about the life and times of Norman Wisdom.

On February 25, all the committee and four members of the guild presented a keep fit demonstration in the Cornbow precinct in Halesowen.

The session began at 10.30 and lasted an hour. Ladies wore white T-shirts with TG and Comic Relief logos written on them and red noses painted on in red lipstick and it

Hawne TG

demonstrated how ladies can keep fit and supple as they get older. While they danced and exercised to music, they managed to raise almost £200 for Comic Relief. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

The next meeting is on March 20m starting at 7.30pm in the Venue 2 at the Zion Christian Centre, Halesowen. Visitors are always very welcome.

Highgrove visit on the cards

CHAIRMAN Julie Willetts

welcomed 41 members to the February meeting.

Apologies were read, followed by the minutes of the previous meeting, which were agreed as a true record.

Treasurer Margaret Gregory made it known that donations of £100 had been sent to both Birmingham Children's Hospital and to Acorns Children's Hospice. Secretary Sue Ward re-

Wollaston E TWG

ported that she had already received thank you letters from the two organisations.

Federation representative Jean Latham gave a detailed account of the January meeting. Sub-section reports followed, one of which mentioned the planned luncheon to visit to Birmingham College of Food on March 29. Visits to High-

grove House and Haden Hill House are on the cards.

Speaker for the evening was Chris Dyché, who gave an interesting talk, augmented with wonderful slides, on a canal journey from Stourbridge to Kinver.

Competition winners were Elizabeth Grove and Hazel Needham, while raffle prizes went to Liz Walker and Judy Cresswell.

The AGM was taking place on March 14.

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Police release images after early hours attacks



People who police want to speak to in relation to the incidents in Stourbridge during the early hours of March 4

CCTV has been released by police after two assaults in Stourbridge that took place in the space of 10 minutes – and saw one victim stabbed.

Police said the people in the CCTV images could be 'key to finding those responsible' for the attacks.

A man was assaulted in the town centre and stabbed three times, before a taxi driver suffered a hand injury after an assault by passengers.

The first incident took place at around 3.30am on Saturday (March 4). Two women and two men – all described as white – attacked a taxi driver before running off along Pedmore Road.

The taxi driver picked up the group on Hagley Road in Stourbridge, and they asked to be dropped off on the

Wrens Nest Estate in Dudley. The group said they had no money so asked the taxi driver to stop at the BP petrol station on Pedmore Road so they could get some cash. When they got back in they said they still had no money, so the driver said he would be taking them back to Stourbridge town centre.

Grabbed

The passengers began to lash out at the inside of the taxi and the driver. His arm was grabbed through the small plastic window inside the cab, resulting in an injury to his hand.

As the driver tried to fend off the attackers, he lost control of his cab and crashed into a stationary vehicle.

The men demanded cash from the driver, before punching him and running away along Pedmore Road.

Police were called out at around

4.10am to reports of an injured 31-year-old man in an alleyway off St John's Road in the town centre. He had been beaten and stabbed after leaving a nightclub at around 3.20am.

He was walking along Hagley Road to get a taxi home when he saw a group of two women and several men, as he walked past them he was attacked and then pursued into the alley where the assault continued.

Detective Constable Simon Cooper said: "These were two really nasty attacks and we are currently investigating the possibility they were carried out by the same group. We have good CCTV images of a number of people we want to speak to in connection with the assaults and we are urging members of the public to get in touch if they recognise any of them."

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Safebreak burglars in two charity shop raids

BURGLARS raided two British Heart Foundation charity shops in the Black Country – within a day of each other – taking cash from safes and causing thousands of pounds worth of damage.

West Bromwich and Dudley British Heart Foundation (BHF) branches were targeted in break-ins, which saw safes broken into, security equipment wrecked, and a ceiling ripped down.

BHF's area manager Julie Taylor said the burglaries had cost money that could have been used by the charity to fund lifesaving research into heart disease.

At both shops the culprits went straight for the safes, making off with undisclosed amounts of cash. They also caused extensive damage to both premises, even dismantling part of the ceiling to get access to wires in the West Bromwich branch.

Police believe the offenders entered via the rear of the West Bromwich Furniture and Electrical store on the High Street overnight on Saturday-Sunday, March 4-5. At the Dudley shop on

By Judith Hawkins

Castle Street, the burglars appear to have entered through a downstairs window, between 4pm on Sunday, March 5 and 9am the following day.

The charity is now reviewing security measures at its shops.

Ms Taylor said: "The recent break-ins at two of our stores has been really disheartening for us. It has caused a huge amount of damage to the stores, which will cost thousands of pounds to repair, taking money away from the BHF's vital work. It was also a really upsetting situation for all the staff and volunteers who work really hard in the fight for every heartbeat."

To donate visit bhf.org.uk/shops or call 0808 250 0030.

Jo saddling up for 100-mile fundraiser



Keen cyclist and mother-of-three Joanna Kilvington, who is taking part in the #100for100 challenge

A MOTHER-of-three from Bilston is to pedal 100 miles in honour of a war hero and global humanitarian's 100th birthday.

Cycling fanatic Joanna Kilvington, who rode 4,000 miles last year, is attempting 100 in one go to raise awareness and support the work of Leonard Cheshire Disability, which has homes and centres around the West Midlands.

The ride is part of the charity's '100 for 100' challenge to mark the centenary of its founder's birth. The Dudley Council worker will pedal the 100 miles at Aberdovey Bike Ride in June, with her local cycling group called 'fishfacing cycling buddies' in honour of a bike shop.

She and all those taking on the challenge are sharing it on social media using the hashtag #100for100, tagging two friends to join the fun with their own #100for100 challenge.

Fundraising will support the charity's work in the Midlands. Participants can share their #100for100 challenge and find out more at: leonardcheshire.org/100for100
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Better roads and relevant skills to fire up the engine

THE Midlands will see road improvements and youngsters equipped with relevant skills as part of a £392 million Government scheme to fire up the region's economy, said Chancellor Philip Hammond during a visit to Dudley College.

He has announced a range of plans as part of the 'Midlands Engine Strategy'. For the Black Country there will be £25m for reducing traffic congestion and improving roads, while £11m has been earmarked for a programme of investments in high value manufacturing.

The Black Country Garden City project, offering thousands of new homes on brownfield sites across the region, will receive £12m. Further education colleges are in line for a £7m investment, while £11m will be spent on providing work coaches to boost jobs prospects for the unem-

ployed. Birmingham Symphony Hall will get a £10m extension.

Mr Hammond highlighted connecting local manufacturing tradition with technological advances. He said: "You will see the benefits straight away in terms of investment in infrastructure projects, including road improvements, removing congestion points that hamper industry and business from operating effectively and efficiently.

"The investment in the future of our young people and the budget announcements I made about technical education in this country are going to be particularly important to an area like this that has got a lot of engineering based businesses. That means bringing through young people that have the relevant skills to keep these engineering businesses at the cutting edge."



Philip Hammond with Dudley College principal Lowell Williams during his visit to launch the Midlands Engine

Views are sought on community forums

RESIDENTS can have their say on how community forums are held in Dudley at the next round of meetings.

Dudley Council is carrying out a review of the 10 community forums, including how often they run and the funding opportunities available for community groups.

The authority wants to make sure people continue to have access to their councillors.

All meetings start at 6.30pm. Today (Thursday): Halesowen North and Halesowen South at Halesbury School, Feldon Lane; Norton, Pedmore and Stourbridge East, Wollaston and Stourbridge Town at Our Lady and All Saints, New Road, Stourbridge. March 20: Amblecote, Cradley and Wollescote, Lye and Stourbridge North at Lye Community Centre, Cross Walks; Belle Vale, Hayley Green and Cradley South at Lutley Community Centre, Brookwillow Road. March 21: Kingswinford North and Wall Heath, Kingswinford South and Wordsley at Kingswinford Royal British Legion Club; Netherton, Woodside and St. Andrews and Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood at Savoy Centre, Northfield Road, Netherton.

Thousands miss out on bus fare discount

ANGRY councillors have hit out at a bus fare discount for travellers in Sandwell and Dudley, but excludes thousands of people living in the Black Country.

National Express has launched the Sandwell and Dudley ticket, which allows people to buy a day ticket for £3 rather than £4.60 to travel around parts of the Black Country.

However, the boundaries of the offer do not stretch beyond the M5, meaning a large part of Sandwell, including Langley and Smethwick, miss out.

People taking advantage of the offer can save almost £5 a week on bus travel and £14.50 for a four-week pass.

Bilston and Darlaston, which are not in Dudley or Sandwell, have been included, to the annoyance of Sandwell councillors.

Anyone living or wanting to travel outside the zone must pay the full amount.

Encourage

The discount offer has been brought in to try to encourage travel between the Black Country towns and in readiness for 18 months of roadworks on the M5.

Transport chiefs hope more people will turn to using buses during major repairs between junctions one for West Bromwich and two for Oldbury.

Councillor Paul Sandars said: "If you have a ticket zone called Sandwell and Dudley it is such a shame around a third of Sandwell is not in there. It is something we need to look into further."

Mental health trust is given top ratings

A BLACK Country mental health partnership has been given top ratings after an NHS staff survey.

The survey, which is carried out by an independent organisation Quality Health, ranked Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust as the highest or joint highest scoring specialist mental health trust in 15 areas. These included staff feeling concerns raised by service users are acted upon, staff receiving recognition for good work and the organisation taking positive action on workers' health.

The trust was also rated the top NHS provider in the country for the percentage of staff satisfied with the opportunities for flexible working patterns, recognition they receive, support their managers provide in a personal crisis and level of pay. Mark Axcell, chief executive of the trust, said: "This year's findings are extremely positive and demonstrate our commitment to improving the way we work and how we deliver patient care."

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Father gives kidney to save son's life



David Salter on his wedding day, second from left, with his father Ian, and his brothers Mark, far left, and Brian

‘EVERYONE would do the same if the person they loved needed it’ – the words of a father who saved his son's life by giving him a kidney.

Ian Salter, aged 68, put himself forward as a donor when his son David was rushed to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital with kidney failure.

The 44-year-old from Cradley Heath, first discovered he had a problem with his kidneys in 2008. Then in

2014 it became clear that his kidney function was worsening.

David attempted to resolve his problem with alternative treatments, as the idea of dialysis was not something he wanted to consider.

Ian, from Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, said: "I told him I had a spare kidney waiting for him and told him to tell the doctors. If it is you're family you don't think about it."

In March 2016 Ian and David underwent the transplant. Remarkably, David's brother Mark and half-brother Brian also came forward as potential donors, but further tests revealed that

Ian was the most suitable. Since the operation Ian has recovered well and has given a talk about the transplant and raised money for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham Charity.

David married his fiancée Rosie last summer.

Ian added: "To see him swinging down the aisle with a big grin on his face was incredible. People might say it is brave but everyone would do the same if the person they loved needed it. The key lesson is that donors are really well looked after, you can put yourself forward in complete confidence."

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Hoot and bothered! Owls are rescued from chimney

FREE parking could be trialled in Sedgley as part of a pilot scheme to encourage residents to shop local.

It is hoped that the plans will boost the economy in Sedgley and Kingswinford, alongside other areas of Dudley that are sometimes overlooked by shoppers.

It has been recommended that if the free parking is successful, Dudley Council should consider rolling out two-hour free parking in council-owned car parks across the whole of the borough.

Council officers are putting a report together on the issue.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "We are currently exploring plans for a free parking pilot, following a motion at full council. We will have more details over the coming weeks."

£1,000 bill for rubbish

A WOLVERHAMPTON man has been fined £333 plus £762 costs after rubbish was fly-tipped at Baggeridge Country Park, Sedgley.

Leehvan Stewart, 33, of Adams Road, Finchfield, was hit in the pocket for failing to ensure rubbish was disposed of correctly after a relative was asked to remove business waste. However, it ended up being fly-tipped on Railway Walk. He was prosecuted by South Staffs Council.

THREE workmen managed to save a pair of love sick owls trapped behind a radiator at a church in Sedgley.

The engineers and an apprentice, who all work for BCF Gas Services in Bilston, were called to St Mary the Virgin Hurst Hill church in Sedgley after the congregation heard hooting.

It is believed the tawny owls were mating on top of the church chimney when they fell down inside it.

Gas and heating engineers Kevin Hesom, aged 58, his son James Hesom, aged 26 and apprentice Ryan Paskin, aged 17, worked tirelessly to find and free the birds, taking a video of the rescue which they uploaded to YouTube.

Noises

James said: "We got the call on Thursday after the church said it first heard the hooting. We were told the noises were coming from behind a radiator, which fronted an old fireplace.

"As we pulled everything forward, we peered down and could just see two pairs of big eyes looking up at us from the darkness.

"Once we saw that, we weren't going to stop until we saved them."

The rescue on Thursday was just days before James' wedding at Dudley Priory Hall Registry Office, which took place on Saturday.

By Jessica Labhart

James said: "My other half, Maxine, was with us at the rescue. We were all meant to be doing errands for the wedding but we ended up saving owls."

Maxine, aged 31, said: "Our day went so well on Saturday, I think it's down to the good deed of freeing the birds. I couldn't believe it when we saw them blinking up at us."

The group worked together to free the birds, with Ryan stopping the water from the radiator, Kevin pulling the plate forward and James putting his hand down the gap to pull the birds out.

Kevin said: "James put his hand in, with heavy duty gloves on. Their talons went straight through the gloves but that didn't stop him."

For video see expressandstar.com



Heating engineer James Hesom with one of the owls rescued from behind a radiator at St Mary the Virgin church

MP asking for views on pub's fate

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin is consulting residents over controversial plans to turn a Gornal pub into a supermarket.

The Fiddlers Arms on Straits Road, Gornal, which dates back to the 19th Century, look set to become a Co-op store after plans to demolish the building have been submitted to Dudley Council.

Labour MP Mr Austin has written to residents in the surrounding area to ask them what they think of the plans.

Mr Austin said: "Local pubs are important to the community. Many residents have already been in touch to voice their concerns about this. I'm worried about the impact on traffic, increased parking and the effect it could have on trade in Gornal. I'll be looking at the survey returns and pass on any concerns to the council."

Clifton cancer charity events

A SEDGLEY village centre pub is planning to put on special events in the weeks before Easter to raise funds for children's cancer charity CLIC Sargent.

The Clifton in the Bull Ring, a JD Wetherspoon pub that was originally a cinema, will be running fundraising events from April 10. These will include a quiz night on April 12 at 7.30pm, a darts competition on April 20 at 7.30pm, magic shows and an Easter bake sale on April 22.

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Campaign is hailed a success

A CHILD sexual exploitation (CSE) campaign across the West Midlands reached more than one million people, according to one of the authorities involved.

Dudley Council said the #seemehearmetag reached 278,000 people, a digital media campaign reached a further 761,000 in two weeks and 15,000 people visited the campaign's website.

The authority also said more than 4,000 commuters stopped to find out more about CSE at transport hubs in Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell, Birmingham, Solihull and Coventry from February 20 to 24.

Councillor Ian Cooper, Dudley Council's cabinet member for children's services, said: "This week of action has been a fantastic success reaching more than one million people across the region through social media and online.

"We need everyone to be aware of the signs of CSE and to know how to get help."

Attempted murder knifeman fails to get sentence reduced

A FATHER who tried to kill the mother of his three children has failed in his bid to persuade top judges that his prison term was too tough.

Karl John Hughes, 32, of George Close, Dudley, was jailed for 15 years and three months for the attempted murder of his ex-girlfriend in 2015.

She was his partner of 14 years and they had three young children together, Mr Justice Sweeney told London's Appeal Court.

Their relationship broke down because of Hughes' drinking and his 'erroneous fixation' with the idea that she was being unfaithful to him. Hughes moved out of the family home but

on November 21, 2015, he got into the house through a window. As he tried to cut his ex-partner's throat, the children could hear what was happening and one of them witnessed her mother's terror.

The victim was stabbed in the shoulder, before managing to escape.

Scars

Hughes admitted attempted murder when he appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court in May last year. He had earlier pleaded guilty to cannabis possession.

Miss Bennett was left with scars and the potentially reduced use of both of her hands after the stabbing. She suffered a three centimetre deep by 10cm long cut to her throat, two other

cuts to the left hand side of her neck and a stab wound to her shoulder along with 'significant' defensive wounds to her hands.

entence last year, Mr Simon Hanns, defending, said Hughes's behaviour 'was out of character' and he was 'genuinely remorseful'.

Hughes, who prepared his own appeal, argued last week that his jail term was far too harsh and ought to be reduced. If he had known the strength of the evidence against him, he would have admitted the murder attempt at a much earlier stage, he argued.

But Mr Justice Sweeney said there was 'clearly no merit' in Hughes' grounds of appeal. "The appeal must be dismissed," said the judge, sitting with Lord Justice Elias and Judge Julian Goose QC.

Brum's big bike ride into Worcs

AS many as 15,000 cyclists will be heading towards the Wyre Forest as part of Vélo, Birmingham's 100-mile closed road route event on September 24.

Riders will pass through many parts of Worcestershire via Sandwell, Dudley and Staffordshire, with hundreds of spectators expected to line the route.

Participants will leave Birmingham and head towards Wolverley and Bewdley and then south through Great Witley. On a return route they will pass through Cutnall Green and Belbroughton and on to Clent, Romsley, and Frankley.

Motorists have been warned that extensive road closures will be in place.

General entries sold out within four days. However, it is still possible for cyclists still to enter via one of Vélo Birmingham's official charity partners. See www.velobirmingham.com website.

Library exhibition by artist



Self-taught artist Phil Sedgley pictured during the exhibition of his work at Himley Hall

A SELF-TAUGHT artist has opened an exhibition in the Black Country.

A total of twenty of Phil Sedgley's paintings will be on display at Stourbridge Library throughout March.

These include landscapes and wildlife scenes that have been painted either in oil paints or acrylic inks.

His artwork can be found in the display cabinets at the foot and top of the stairs inside the library at the Crown Centre.

Mr Sedgley, from Stourbridge, will be holding another solo exhibition in the autumn at Dudley Canal Trust.

Art has been a hobby for the 65-year-old since he was in his teens, when he received a set of oil paints for Christmas.

Since retiring from his job as an administrator last year, he has been able to spend more time at his easel.

He previously held an exhibition, entitled Some You Just Might Like, at Himley Hall last year.

Magnificent seven – uni among best

THE University of Birmingham is among the top 50 places in the world to study in seven subjects.

The QS World University Rankings by Subject 2017 reveal that the city institution is the fifth best university on the planet at which to study sports-related subjects.

This year's ratings put six other subject areas at the University of Birmingham in the top 50: Education, English Language & Literature, Linguistics, Theology, Divinity & Religious Studies, Development Studies and Dentistry.

There are a further 18 Birmingham subject areas that score in the Top 100, including Archaeology, Chemical Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Anatomy and Physiology, Law, Performing Arts, Psychology and Materials Science.

Professor Kathy Armour, pro-vice-chancellor of education, said: "We are a destination of choice for those wishing to secure a top-flight career in many areas."

Global beers at four pubs

AWARD-WINNING beers from across the world will be served at four Dudley pubs during a beer festival.

From March 22 until April 2, up to 20 beers from Italy, Brazil, Holland and the USA, as well as the UK, will be served at: The Full Moon in Dudley High Street; The Abraham Darby in the Merry Hill shopping centre, Brierley Hill; The Clifton in Bull Ring, Sedgley; and The Waterfront Inn in Level Street, Brierley Hill. All will be priced from £1.95 to £2.25 a pint.

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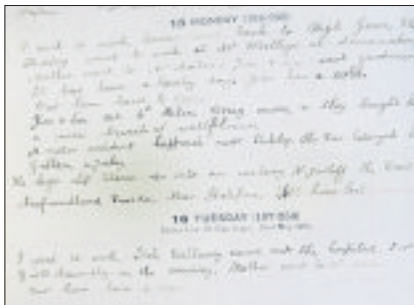
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Senior archivist Richard Lewis with metal from the hull of the Titanic



A diary that mentions the sinking on April 15 1912



An image of the fateful ship, which had been labelled as 'unsinkable'



Examples of the advertising for the maiden voyage



Replicas of the china used by second class passengers

Collection relives fate of 'unsinkable' Titanic

MORE than 100 years on it is a tragedy that still inspires worldwide interest – the sinking of the Titanic.

However not many may realise the fateful ship's connection to the Black Country, which has is being explored in a new exhibition at the Dudley Archives. It runs until May 27.

A collection amassed by keen Titanic researcher and writer Andrew Lound is on display at the Tipton Road venue.

It includes a lifeboat nameplate, the White Star Line's drinks menu, a layout of the first-class accommodation to a piece of Titanic's hull.

The exhibition also includes photographs of the Titanic's 15-and-a-half-ton anchor, which was made by Noah Hingley & Sons in Nether-ton, and drawn through the streets by 20 horses in May 1911.

Andrew, of Great Barr, has sought out the region's connections to the so-called 'unsinkable' ship, which was run by the White

MEMORY LANE

By Judith Hawkins

Star Line, and will be at Dudley Archives on March 25 to sign copies of his book 'Titanic in the Midlands'.

Archivist Richard Lewis said: "A lot of these items were in Boston, but Andrew Lound has bought them and had them sent back from America."

"There is a connection with the Midlands. A lot of the metalwork was done here, including the anchor."

The impressive array of artefacts have arrived amid an important time for Dudley Archives, which is becoming the place to see items previously displayed at Dudley Museum, which closed in December.

Mr Lewis added: "It is going really well. Work is almost finished here to accommodate the new collections from the museum."

One of the display's centrepieces is an ornate wooden panel recovered from the sea on April 15,

1912, the morning after the fatal iceberg strike, by the crew of the Irish fishing boat Proinséas Noirin.

Mr Lewis said there was a fascinating tale behind this object, which salt water tests indicate did drift from the wreckage of the Titanic.

It turns out that the passing fishing boat was gun-running for the Irish Republicans, and when they saw the distress flares of the sinking ship they thought their cover would be blown and left the scene, so were not around to assist the survivors.

As a result the crew were unaware of the Titanic's fate, only discovering the truth when they returned home two weeks later, and keeping silent due to their illegal activities.

The collection also includes China plates and platters from the White Star Line, showing the distinction made between first and second class. These include replica dinnerware that was made especially for the blockbuster film Titanic.



Richard Lewis with a restored lifeboat nameplate and a third class plate



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Open day at wedding venue

COUPLES planning to tie the knot can find out more at an open day at Priory Hall in Dudley on Saturday.

Dudley Registrars are holding their wedding show bonanza, which will include chance to take a look around the Grade-II listed hall, plus a bridal fashion show with gowns available from 1 do 2 Bridal Boutique in Stourbridge.

Last year more than 400 people attended the event, which provides the a chance to view the town centre venue and its photogenic surroundings in Priory Park.

This year's Dudley event will also include a free prize draw to win a Priory Suite wedding at Priory Hall.

The open day is being held from 10am to 4pm. For more information call (01384) 815 373.

Issuing gun licences is costing region's police more than £70k

GUN licences are costing West Midlands Police tens of thousands of pounds every year as the force loses £19 every time one is issued.

Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson blamed the Government, saying Whitehall had compelled the force to 'subsidise gun ownership'.

On average, it costs the police £19 more to issue a single gun licence than they are allowed to charge the applicant. The fee is set by the Government.

The West Midlands force forecasts that this year it will issue more than 3,600 gun licences, meaning it will lose out on around £71,000.

As police forces face spending cuts, many senior police officers argue gun licences should be cost efficient and so rise to around £200 a licence.

Britain has around 600,000 private gun licences, which are used by people like farmers, marksmen and others who shoot for sport.

Staffordshire Police, with a larger rural population than the West Midlands, is believed to lose out even more.

The Home Office increased fees in April 2015 from £50 to £88 for a firearms certificate, and from £50 to £79.50 for a shotgun certificate. Renewal of a firearms certificate now costs £62 – up from £40 – and the fee for a shotgun certificate is £49, also up from £40.

But those were the first increases since 2001 and West Midlands Police says it still does not allow the force to recover the full cost of running the firearms licensing service.

Mr Jamieson said: "This Government has just cut our grant by £6 million but expects us to subsidise gun ownership. This cannot be right."

School appeals above average

DEMAND for school places in the Black Country was higher than the national average in the last curriculum year with more parents lodging appeals because children weren't allocated their first choice school.

Parents from the region submitted a higher than average number of appeals over council-run schools between April 2015 and March 2016. Successful appeals, which were resolved in the favour of parents, were below the national average.

Parents in Sandwell were the least likely to have their appeal accepted with a success rate of just seven per cent. Out of 253 appeals, 18 were successful. Dudley had an appeal success rate of 11.5 per cent, 21 in favour of parents out of 182.

Lemurs conservation week



Hannah Bishton meets a ring-tailed lemur at West Midland Safari Park, near Bewdley

A SPECIAL conservation week dedicated to lemurs is taking place at West Midland Safari Park this week.

Protect Lemurs Week began at the weekend and runs until tomorrow (Friday) at the attraction near Bewdley.

The park will raise awareness not only about the threats to lemurs but also threats the only place in the world they are found, the African island of Madagascar.

A variety of activities have been taking place during the week, both at the Park and online.

Guests can take part in a free quiz to be entered into a prize draw and there are also chances to meet Stanley, the Park's lemur mascot.

All the funds raised during the week will go to the Lemur Conservation Association (AECL).

80 jobs are to go at Frankie & Benny's

AROUND 80 jobs are set to be axed after the struggling owner of Frankie & Benny's swung to a full-year loss.

The restaurant group posted a pre-tax loss of £40 million in the year to January 1 after being stung with a £117m exceptional charge linked to restructuring efforts.

In August, the firm, which is also behind Garfunkel's, said it would shut 33 under-performing sites as part of strategic review in a move that affected around 1,000 staff.

The group, which has Frankie and Benny's at Dudley, Merry Hill, Walsall and Kidderminster, will now close an additional eight restaurants this year, with around 80 jobs set to go.

Boss Andy McCue said he is 'pursuing a new and focused plan to turnaround and grow the business'. This will include finding efficiency savings including 'reducing overheads, extracting further purchasing benefits from our scale and reducing the number of people we employ'.

Have cake and eat it

CAKE International will be returning to Birmingham's NEC this weekend.

The renowned cake show will host the world's largest display of competition pieces, demonstrators and industry experts from across the globe.

Cake International will take place from today (Friday) to Sunday. The show will be open from 9.30am to 5.30pm over the three days.

Tickets start from £12 for adults and are available from www.cakeinternational.co.uk website.

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Colin Pearson, from Cranmore Road, Wolverhampton, who has been metal detecting for 40 years



A ladies pistol dated 1820-1840, which was unearthed by Colin



An 1865 Flint Eisteddfod medal found under Bournemouth pier

METAL detecting has long been associated with the discovery of lost treasures, writes Heather Large.

But for Colin Pearson the hobby is all about unearthing and preserving pieces of our past.

"You can't believe what's lying a foot below the surface of the ground, just waiting to be discovered. You could find something someone lost 2,000 years ago and it hasn't been touched by anyone since. You could be the first person to find it and that's a fantastic feeling."

"This is our history and it needs to be preserved and recorded," says the member of Bloxwich Research and Metal Detector Club.

The 71-year-old first picked up a metal detector, belonging to his uncle, in 1976, sparking his interest in the pastime.

"My Uncle George lived in Hinckley and was self-employed. He used to clean the drains along the A5 and would find Roman artefacts."

Retired

"During a visit I had a go with his metal detector and got hooked. I decided to buy myself a metal detector and I've never looked back," he explains.

Since then the retired engineer has made thousands of discoveries with many taking pride of place in his Wolverhampton home where he meticulously researches and records every item. They've included artefacts such as coins and jewellery dating back to the times of the Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings.

All finds of interest are also recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme national database, making them available for worldwide research by anybody. Among some of Colin's prized discoveries are 15 Roman silver coins dating back as far as 77AD, during the reign of Vespasian, up until the reign of Marcus Aurelius in 161AD.

He also discovered a 15th century gold reliquary in a farmer's field in Middleton on the Staffordshire/Warwickshire border, which at the time was valued at £7,000 and was acquired by Warwickshire Museum.

It's engraved with the figure of St George who's in the act of killing a dragon. The item is thought to be the lid to a small diamond-shaped box, which probably would've been worn on a chain around the neck.

"This was a once-in-a-lifetime find because it's so rare. It's fantastic that it's been saved from just being buried for eternity. Now people will be able to see it," says Colin. The oldest item in his collection is a 5,000-year-old axe blade, while one of the most curious is a ring which he believes features an engraving of William Shakespeare's head.

"It really does look like him but I haven't been able to get it confirmed. I don't know if it's of the period or from the 18th century," explains Colin. He's also travelled further afield and discovered a medal from the Flint Eisteddfod festival in Wales, which dates back to 1865, beneath Bournemouth Pier. Made from 90 per cent tin, Colin says it's in a good condition for its age and considering where it was found.

"It's unbelievable. How it survived all the salt water, I don't know," says Colin, who's been a club member since 1990. Founded in 1978, the club has around 60 members who spend every Sunday searching sites, between Wheaton Aston and Tamworth. They research an area first before applying for permission from the landowner to carry out a search. A quality metal detector can cost upwards of £150 and many will have distinctive beep tones based on the type of metal.

Colin says he doesn't have a set method for searching with his detector and tends to wander around randomly. Every time he hears the beep of his metal detector he gets excited. "It's a fabulous feeling," he adds.

All that glisters - the Middleton Jewel, dated 1450 AD



"There's a moment when you don't know what you're going to find. You can end up with a lump of earth and a piece of history inside it," he says.

After hearing the beep, he then digs a hole before using a pinpoint probe to narrow the search area.

A pouch is carried for all of the finds, whether they are interesting or just junk, and they're all removed so that they don't unwittingly get dug up again in the future.

As well as finds of interest being recorded by the database, anything believed to be treasure must be reported to a coroner.

Objects that don't qualify as 'treasure' are items whose owners can be traced, unworked natural items such as animal bones, objects from the foreshore which are wreck, single coins found on their own, or groups of coins lost one by one over a period of time.

Once an item is ruled to be treasure the coroner will inform the British Museum or the National Museum Wales and they will ascertain whether they or any other museum wishes to buy it. If it's purchased, the money is shared between landowner and the finder. If not, it will be returned to the finder after 28 days unless the landowner objects.

Club members keep in touch with the Finds Liaison Officer for Staffordshire & West Midlands who is based at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery and helps with the recording of discoveries. Colin adds: "Research is the best part because you start not knowing anything about an item but you can find out its history and who might have owned it or made it. Every item is interesting. It's a fantastic hobby."

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Masons lodge £2,500
for the NICE centre



NICE fundraising chief, Louise Watkins and Roger Palmer with, from left, Aran, Jasmine and Louis

A MASONIC lodge has raised over £2,500 for charity over a year of fundraising activities.

Moseley Lodge raised the money for NICE Centre for Movement Disorders, who provide a lifeline to adults and children affected by incurable movement disorders.

Over the course of the last year, Moseley Lodge members have undertaken a variety of fundraising events including a Garden Party, Ladies Evening and Valentines Lunch.

Roger Palmer, a member of Moseley Lodge, said: "I first heard about NICE through a good friend, whose son Will has been helped by the charity since he was three years old.

"We are so thrilled that the money we have raised is going to a local and very deserving charity which really does transform lives."

Louise Watkins, fundraising and marketing manager at NICE, said: "We are delighted that the Moseley Lodge decided to choose NICE as their charity of the year. In order to sustain our life-changing services to individuals in need, such as Will, and their families, we need to raise £500,000 annually and we rely significantly on donations."

Nazi camp survivor, 87, died after two falls

A SURVIVOR of the Second World War concentration camps who escaped Nazi-occupied Poland for a new life in Britain died after falling whilst in hospital, an inquest heard.

Mieczyslaw Kowalski, described as 'tough as old boots' by his family, had been taken to Sandwell General Hospital in West Bromwich after a fall at his home in Ivanhoe Road, Great Barr, on New Year's Day. After a wait in the busy emergency department, he was examined and found to have suffered no serious harm.

But a nurse found him shivering on the floor of his cubicle later that night. A post mortem found he died of pneumonia due to immobility as a result of the falls.

His family told Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique of their concerns of a 'cover-up' because they were not told about the second fall.

The Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust is now changing policy after admitting there was no falls risk assessment for A&E patients.

Mr Kowalski escaped from a concentration camp in his native Poland as an 11-year-old boy, after his

By Marion Brennan

sister died in his arms, and with help of nuns fled to Britain via India, said his son-in-law Michael Cloke. He described the 87-year-old retired factory supervisor as 'an amazingly strong, extremely hard-working man'.

On January 1 his wife heard a thud and found him at the bottom of the stairs of their home. He was assessed as a category 3 patient, to be seen within an hour at A&E. The hospital has acknowledged he should have been seen either immediately or within 10 minutes.

Black Country coroner Zafar Siddique decided against making any special recommendations as the hospital trust had addressed the issues. He concluded that Mr Kowalski's death had been accidental.

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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

Primary schools to get books on humanism

PRIMARY schools across Shropshire are to be issued with books about humanism as part of an initiative to make children more aware of the philosophy.

The British Humanist Association, which represents non-religious people who ascribe to secular moral codes, is to distribute copies of a book called What is Humanism? to schools across the county.

The book, by Michael Rosen and Annemarie Young, is described as the first book about humanism aimed at children, and features contributions from comedians Stephen Fry and Shappi Khorsandi, (both pictured), novelists Philip Pullman and Natalie Haynes, and physicist Jim Al-Khalili.

The books have been paid for by a crowd-funding campaign by the association, and are aimed at children aged from 10 to 13.

The books will be distributed among 5,000 schools across England, Wales and Northern Ireland this week, but will also be available to other schools on request.

Dr Simon Nightingale, chairman of Shropshire Humanist Group, said humanists were non-religious people who look to science and reason to understand the natural world and who make moral decisions based on empathy and concern for others.

He said the book would support teachers who want to explore non-religious ethics and humanist world views in religious education lessons.

"This is the first time the BHA has distributed a book to primary schools, and for many schools, it will be the first book about non-religious world views in their libraries," he said.

Dr Nightingale, who has given talks about humanism at a number of Shropshire schools including Meole Brace School in Shrewsbury, Burton Borough School in Newport and Telford Priory, said: "Recent surveys have shown that over half the UK population live without religion and among young people it's almost 70 per cent.



"Of those that live without religion, almost all hold basic humanist beliefs, even if they are don't call themselves humanists."

He said it was important that people with faith and those without understood each other better.

Dr Nightingale said he was particularly keen to address the belief that humanists were against religion.

"We support the rights of those with faith to live as they wish and we collaborate with other religions and interfaith groups to promote values we share with most moderate religions," he added.



"Learning about humanism helps children, whether they're religious or not religious, to have a good think about where they get their values from and how they go about making ethical choices.

"A lot of teachers find Humanism to be a really useful perspective to explore in the classroom because it helps pupils to get to grips with big ethical questions and the wide variety of different religious and non-religious world views."

Colin Hopkins, director of education for the Diocese of Lichfield, said it was important that children develop an understanding of different world views and philosophies.

"The vast majority of schools in Shropshire, including Church of England schools, follow the local authority's agreed syllabus for religious education, which covers Christianity and other world religions," he said.

"High quality RE is an entitlement for all children. It's important that children and young people develop an understanding of major world faiths and other philosophical traditions so that they have an informed basis for their own religious commitment or a non-religious perspective on life."



Wake up feeling fully rested in a comfortable bed



Portuguese model Sara Sampaio for Moroccan oil

It's time to stop dreaming about getting more sleep

By Lisa Haynes

DON'T worry if you've failed on the clean eating front; there's a new buzzword for 2017 that doesn't involve chomping on any raw veg to make you look more sprightly...

Step forward 'clean sleeping'. It has nothing to do with how often you wash your duvet, but everything to do with pure, unadulterated slumber.

Another Gwyneth Paltrow 'Goop-ism', the actress-turned-lifestyle-guru attributes her A-list glow to a clean-sleeping regime: "I believe it should be your first priority - even before you think about your diet," she says in her new book, Goop Clean Beauty. "The lifestyle I lead is based not just on clean eating, but also on clean sleeping: at least seven or eight hours of good, quality sleep - and ideally even 10."

With National Bed Month (yes, it's a thing) approaching in March, there's never been a better time to super-charge your beauty sleep...

PRE-DUVET RITUALS

PROBLEM: Can't sleep

We're now getting less sleep than ever, according to research. Three-quarters of Brits (74%) sleep less than seven hours per night, while 12% snooze for less than five hours - compared to 7% in 2013, according to The Sleep Council's Great British Bed-time Report.

"If you're not sleeping, you'll find your stress hormone levels will go up," says Dr Nish Joshi, holistic guru and founder of the Joshi Clinic. "Sleep habits are so important - avoid caffeine and wine at night, sleep in a well-ventilated room, and make sure your bed and pillow are comfortable. I recommend taking chamomile or valerian about half an hour before bedtime, for a restful night."

BEAUTY SLEEP SOS: This Works Limited Edition Deep Sleep Shower Gel, £15 (thisworks.com); Neal's Yard Remedies Goodnight Pillow Mist, £15 (nealsyardremedies.com); Pure Elixir 02 Smart Sleep Supplement, £30 for 30 days (pureskinelixir.com).

THE NIGHT SHIFT

PROBLEM: Won't sleep

If insomnia's not an issue, but there simply aren't enough hours in the day for decent duvet time, your skin could be suffering. Sleep is vital for skin, as it's when cells go into repair mode - creating new ones and removing toxins.

"Lack of sleep can lead to signs of ageing," explains Susan Harmsworth, skincare expert and ESPA founder. "Skin research shows cell regeneration is highest between 12am and 1am, while skin exfoliation and blood flow is increased between 12am and 4am. This is why night-time products are so beneficial for the skin's repair systems."

BEAUTY SLEEP SOS: Sarah Chapman Limited Edition Supersize Skinesis Overnight Facial, £50 from March 1 (qvcuk.com); ESPA Overnight Hydration Therapy, £35 (espaskincare.com); Illuminage Skin Rejuvenating Eye Mask With Copper Oxide,



Sleep habits are so important - avoid caffeine and wine at night and sleep in a well-ventilated room



Estee Lauder Advanced Night Repair Concentrated Recovery Eye Mask

£25 (lookfantastic.com).

RISE AND SHINE

PROBLEM: Can't wake up

Woken up feeling less than refreshed? It's possible your alarm's interrupted a natural sleep cycle, resulting in that groggy feeling and telltale eye bags.

Thankfully, you can fake eight hours' sleep with cheat products and quick-fix massage techniques.

"Reduce puffy eyes by massaging a gentle, healing eye cream in the direction of your lymphatic drainage, moving under the eyes towards the temples," advises Nuriss

skincare expert, Dr Anita Sturnham. "Skincare with antioxidants, such as vitamins C, B and E, will help boost and repair tired and dull-looking skin."

BEAUTY SLEEP SOS: Estee Lauder Advanced Night Repair Concentrated Recovery Eye Mask, from £10 (esteelauder.co.uk); Benefit Eye Bright Instant Eye Brightener, £17 (benefitcosmetics.com); NEOM Energy Burst 100% Natural Eau de Parfum, £49 (neomorganics.com).

BEAUTY BULLETIN

:: SARA'S MANE ROLE

Moroccan oil has appointed Sara Sampaio



Pure Elixir 02 Smart Sleep supplement

as its new Beauty Ambassador. The Portuguese model and Victoria's Secret Angel, who has 4.7 million Instagram followers, says she's been a fan of the haircare brand for years: "Moroccan oil products not only make me look amazing, they make me feel amazing, knowing I'm using only the highest quality oil-infused formulas for my hair and skin."

STEAL OF THE WEEK

Want some budget-friendly bathroom action? Check out Flying Tiger's chic new skincare, with Cherry Blossom Shower Gel and Hand Soap at £2 each from UK stores.

Fundraisers brave the heights for gallery abseil

FORMER Miss Black Country Jade Secker stepped right out of her comfort zone to help raise more than £7,500 for charity – and dropped 110ft down the side of Walsall New Art Gallery.

Charity fundraising officer Jade was at the gallery to support the dozens of adrenalin junkies in a daring abseil to raise money for The Haven women's refuge in Wolverhampton and hadn't intended to take part.

But at the last minute she decided she too would take up the challenge to boost the fundraising.

The 26-year-old said: 'It was such a last minute decision this was completely out of my comfort zone. But I thought it was about time I took on a challenge as I spend most of my days encouraging others to do them!'

Awareness

"The best part was being able to do it to raise money and awareness for such an amazing charity. Oh, and getting my feet firmly back on the ground."

More than 30 people clambered down the town centre art gallery for the charity at the weekend.

Among them, wearing a very appropriate Superman T-shirt, was 20-year-old Dudley man George Conlan. He said: "It is the first time I have abseiled off the top of a building, I have done a bit of rock climbing."

"I am alright with heights. It is a bit daunting before you go over the edge."

"I quite enjoyed it really, getting to shoot down a building," he added.

Staff from Dolomite Training were on hand to make sure all 34 people made it down the wall safely in an event which saw more than £7,500 was raised.



Jade Secker at the start of her impromptu abseil down the gallery



Alison Buckingham, Emily Glew and George Conlan, of Dudley, at the gallery

However, as Jade did join at the last moment she did not have time to get sponsorship beforehand, so anyone who would like to make a donation can go to <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JadeHavenAbseil>

She said: "Those who know me will know how much of a wuss I am and how much it took for me to get myself down that building!"

"I would be so grateful of any donations and I know the charity will too."

"The Haven support women and children who sadly find themselves in such awful situations – no one deserves to be fearful, hurt or even killed by the person that I supposed to love them."

"The Haven supports hundreds of women and children each year to escape abuse and rebuild their lives happily and safely."

"Without support from the community through events like this, they simply wouldn't be able to do this."

Meanwhile, in another abseil challenge, Chairman of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association Shaz Saleem took on Fort Dunlop in Birmingham, helping to raise money than £500 for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The 100ft challenge was an exciting experience for Shaz, who commented: "A huge thank you to every one who has supported me, a great experience for a very important cause."



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Colour in the garden helps set the mood

Award-winning garden designer Tom Massey tells Hannah Stephenson how colour in the garden can alter your mood, ease negative emotions and lift spirits

A SPIRAL of colour is the theme top designer Tom Massey has taken on in his latest show garden which displays the way gardens can enhance your mood and help your wellbeing.

Research shows the therapeutic value and feeling of wellbeing that people get from gardening, according to Thrive, the charity that uses gardening to help people living with disabilities or ill health, or are vulnerable or isolated. But colour can also make an impact.

Massey, 31, was inspired by zen gardens and Japanese designs to come up with his Perennial Sanctuary Garden – to be shown at the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show in July – and has done much research on how the colour and form of plants can change your mood.

At the outer edge of his showpiece, the vibrant red colours represent the inner chaos that can come from being at crisis point.

As the visitor takes the journey into the garden following a winding gravel path, sounds from outside the garden fade.

The planting becomes taller and more immersive and the colour scheme moves through stimulating yellows and oranges to more restful purples, blues and finally, pure green.

Towards the middle of the design the planting is simplified, leading to a calm sanctuary at the centre of the garden.

Here the planting changes to a single species of towering bamboo that screens the outside world, creating a safe haven and place for peaceful reflection, hidden from view.

But you don't have to create a show garden to generate a positive atmosphere in your outside space.

The use of a particular palette to generate a mood can be replicated in many gardens, according to Massey.

"Red is a very stimulating colour – it's eye-catching, it can mean passion, danger and warning, but ultimately it's an exciting colour," says Massey, who uses Sanguisorba 'Tanna', Crocosmia 'Hofffire' and Panisanguisorba 'Tanna', Crocosmia 'Hofffire' and Panisanguisorba 'Tanna' to enliven and uplift in his own show garden.

"Red comes to the fore if you want a vibrant bed." Orange hues spark enthusiasm, fascination, happiness and creativity, combining the energy of red and the happiness of yellow.

If you prefer an orange palette, you might try Achillea millefolium 'TerraCotta' and Kniphofia uvaria 'Nobilis'.

Yellow is the colour of sunshine, associated with joy, happiness and intellect and produces a warming effect, arousing cheerfulness and stimulating mental activity, says Massey.

It's an optimistic, positive colour and plants in this band include Helianthus annuus and Inula helenium. Purple is associated with wisdom and dignity.

Plants in this band include Veronicastrum virginicum 'Fascination' and Miscanthus 'Purpurascens'. Lilac and lavender shades also have a restful quality.

Blue is often associated with depth and stability, symbolising trust, loyalty, wisdom, confidence and calm.

Plants in this band include Panicum virgatum 'Heavy Metal' and Phlox 'Blue Paradise'.

Bright colours tend to look more vibrant in sunny settings, while blue and green palettes can flourish in semi-shaded areas, creating a cool, calm atmosphere.

At the centre of Massey's garden, is the screen of towering bamboo.

The colour palette is pure green, the colour of nature, representing growth, harmony, freshness, stability and endurance.

Green has healing power, it is the most restful colour for the human eye and it has strong emotional correspondence with safety and sanctuary.

"Different forms and textures can be visually exciting and stimulating, but if you have one single species it can create a calming, restful environment," says Massey.

:: The Perennial Sanctuary Garden will be shown at the RHS Hampton Court Flower Show from July 3 to 9.



Dwarf Iris in flower. These should be planted in late autumn

Iris can bring a dash of colour to flower beds

BEST OF THE BUNCH - Dwarf iris

THE miniature rockery iris, I. reticulata, grows to just 10cm and brightens up scree beds and containers, its flowers in shades of blue with yellow inner markings or orange splashes, emerging before the grassy tufts of leaves around 30cm high. Plant the bulbs at twice their own depth in late autumn in a well-drained, sunny spot, adding grit to the soil to help drainage. Good varieties include I. 'Harmony', which bears deep velvety blue flowers with yellow lines, and 'Blue Note', which is violet blue with feather white markings. I. 'Katharine Hodgkin' is another to look out for, with its light blue flowers with rich yellow tongues and a maroon fleck.

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT - Early veg

If you want to steal a march on summer, start sowing some delicious crops in your soil border in your greenhouse now and you should be harvesting them long before some of your neighbours. You shouldn't go far wrong if you sow produce which is going to remain under cover throughout its life. Vegetables such as French beans, carrots and baby beetroot are great for this and you'll be harvesting them much earlier than you would

outside. Check on the seed packet that you have a greenhouse variety. With climbing beans, sow two bean seeds per pot and place them on greenhouse staging in a frost-free greenhouse. When they have filled their pots with roots, plant them 20cm apart in the greenhouse border enriched with organic matter and put in a stake between each plant. Make sure you save space for later crops such as tomatoes, which can be planted in late April or May. Baby root vegetables and salad crops including radishes, spinach and lettuce, can also be sown thinly in the greenhouse border.

WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

- :: Harden off autumn-sown cauliflowers which have been overwintered in frames
- :: Regularly check late potatoes you have in store. As sprouts appear, rub them out
- :: In mild, dry conditions, plant out polyanthus
- :: Tidy up pansies and violas in hanging baskets and containers as they come into life for spring
- :: Top dress permanent plantings in tubs
- :: Clean watering cans, seed trays and pots for the season ahead

Moving on towards spring from remnants of Doris

ROSS UNDERWOOD

Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall



I RECALL having a conversation with another gardener earlier this year. We were remarking on how mild the past winter had been.

But this was in January and we both agreed that we could not count on a lucky escape as February was still to come.

February storms seem to have become a norm and the most recent, Doris, was no exception.

The beginning of March brings a kind of cabin fever to gardeners.

They just want to get out there and get on with a bit of an early weeding, soil improvement, seed sowing or the multitude of other tasks which are needed.

One task that I try never to neglect at this time is to re-pot containerised shrubs which live year round in their container.

If they become too congested then it is easy for potted shrubs to languish and then fade.

Shrubs such as camellias should be lifted and handled carefully so as not to damage the buds that they are carrying.

Tease

Try to tease out the more fibrous roots and knock off as much old compost as possible.

You can use secateurs to prune away some of the thickest and most woody ones so as to leave room for the thinner feeding roots that will regrow in the pot.

When you put it back in its home make sure that you water the new compost in so that it settles around the root ball without leaving any air gaps that could lead to the plant drying out.

You should protect the new plants from getting blown over by the wind before they have gotten a secure purchase in their new home.

Sometimes it is no good, we get beaten by the weather whatever our intentions.

That is when it is nice to do two things.

The first is to settle down with some good gardening books.

I have read three recently that have kept my attention and that I would recommend to you.

The first is by Michael and Anne Heseltine (yes THAT Michael Heseltine) and is entitled "Thenford" after the garden that he and his wife have created.

It is a large coffee table sized book, certainly not one to carry around.

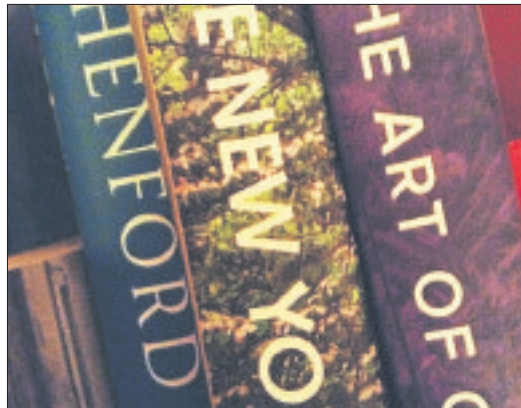
However, it is worth sitting down with as the writing is really very good and the images are excellent.

It is always nice to peer into the gardens of the great and the good to see what they have got that we can't have in our own garden.

There is always a vicarious thrill for good gardeners in seeing something grown well.



Such flowers are now becoming a more common sight as the year progresses



Ross has some top tips for good books to read

My next recommendations cross the Atlantic to the USA which is home to some excellent gardens and in which Chanticleer is among the most renowned.

I first read about it elsewhere but a recent book about it was on my Christmas list.

Magical

The book is rather pretentiously titled "The Art of Gardening".

But as you read on it seems not far from the truth. The gardeners at Chanticleer use plants to as set designer do on stage to conjure magical effects.



Bright coloured flowers are a sign spring is on its way

is to seek out your local gardening club or horticultural society.

Many hold excellent winter lectures by local or visiting gardeners though a good many have suffered a decline in membership.

You might be just what these groups are looking for!

Who knows, you could swap a few gardening books around.

Cheer up – it's almost looking like spring out there!

Wondrous place full of Gold-en memories

Halfway to Paradise Grand Theatre

BACK in 1996 Colin Gold went on Stars In Their Eyes as Billy Fury. Soon after he received a call from the singer's original backing band The Tornados to tour as a tribute act to Billy.

Now they've been doing it 20 years and the Halfway To Paradise show was back at the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton, attracting coachloads of fans from around the country.

The Tornados - John Raynor, Graham Wyvill and Chris Raynor - began backing Fury in the late 1950s. Billy, who came from Liverpool, chose them above the Beatles, who also auditioned for the role.

The Tornados opened the evening with a couple of instrumentals. Gold then appeared and took the audience on a journey back more than 50 years with songs such as Wondrous Place, Maybe Tomorrow, Jealousy and A Thousand Stars.

Charlie Elston, Fury's former musical director, nearly stole the show with a poignant medley on the grand piano featuring When Will You Say I Love You and In Thoughts of You.

That was topped when, courtesy of Gold's sons, his technical crew, took a rare live performance of Fury a couple of years before he died aged just 42 in 1983, and enhanced the film and vocals on a big screen. Gold might have finished with Forget Him but there are still thousands who won't.

TONY ATTWATER



Rising star 12-year-old Lewis Smallman as Billy Elliot at the Birmingham Hippodrome

Ballet boy Billy brilliant with no punches pulled

Billy Elliot Birmingham Hippodrome

WELL I'll pull no punches over this stunning musical - it is simply knockout!

Billy Elliot - the story of the boy who switched from boxing classes to his true love, ballet - packed the Birmingham Hippodrome and rightly so.

Everything about it was superb, the grit and determination of the miners during the long hard strike days, the way they fought the police, and often each other, but in the end all pulled together to help one little boy pursue his dream to dance.

The audience was also kept on its toes. Would Billy's tough widowed dad really ever accept his younger son as a ballet dancer? In the end there was sheer joy and pride on his face as he watched young Billy perform.

Sprinkled with so many charming risqué lines from the little ones these brilliant youngsters just shone. At one stage when Billy danced the audience was so mesmerised and the applause lasted so long that it brought a temporary halt to the storyline.

THEATRE REVIEWS

To be so talented at such a young age is incredible. I could only watch in awe.

There were tears too as young Billy - played by local lad Lewis Smallman, 12, from West Bromwich - read out a letter from his dead mum, and giggles as one little girl offered to reveal all to Billy. There was a long pause and Billy just said 'No it's OK thanks'. Priceless!

Too many brilliant people to mention them all but I must comment on our own young star Lewis. who on this night took the lead role. His energy and dancing skills were awesome.

I doubt anyone left the theatre that night not still marvelling at what they had just seen. Well done and a very well deserved standing ovation. The shows runs until April 29 if you miss it you will regret it.

SUE ATTWATER



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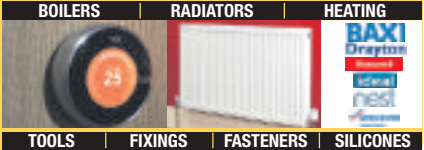
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Being in the limelight is Heaven for Emeli

She started out on the sidelines. Emeli Sande spend the early part of her career writing hits for other performers. After teaming up with producer/writer Shahid Khan, aka Naughty Boy, she worked on tracks for Alesha Dixon, Chipmunk, Professor Green, Devlin, Preeya Kalidas, Cheryl Cole, and Tinie Tempah.

"I was doing a show in London for 1Xtra and I met this guy called Naughty Boy. We got in the studio and we clicked work wise. We just started writing, not necessarily for me, we just thought 'let's write a pop tune' and experiment. And we wrote the Chipmunk track and I thought nothing of it. Naughty Boy sent it off to Chipmunk who really liked it and wrote his stuff around it."

Sande, however, hankered to be centre stage, rather than in the wings. And her big break came in 2011 when she released her debut single, Heaven. Soon, she was at the top of the charts as Read All About It gave her her first number one hit and she won a BRIT Award for British Breakthrough Act before being flown out to the USA to perform at the White House for President Obama.

TURMOIL

Sande, who plays the O2 Academy in Birmingham on Sunday, had great expectations to live up to when she released her second album last year. And while Long Live The Angels couldn't quite match up to her seven-times debut, Our Version of Events, it reached number two on the chart and earned a gold disc.

"We've been doing a lot of album promotion, radio and TV, packed a lot in. So it's been a bit busy, but all quite fun. Hopefully it was worth it."

But while Sande has enjoyed remarkable success in her professional life, it's taken a toll on her personal life. Her ten year-relationship with Adam Gouraguine, the marine biologist she started dating at 17 and married in 2012, floundered and ended in divorce after a year.

That break-down was the catalyst for Long Live The Angels, which Sande wrote to process the turmoil.

"I knew I had put so much on pause. Travelling around you do that. You put your personal life on hold, so I knew I had to take time off to know myself and what I wanted to do. Towards the end of last year I felt ready to get out there and show the music."

"I didn't feel pressure from the outside. When I write I take myself away and surround myself with friends and musicians, people I love, so any pressure comes from me, nitpicking and making it right. I wanted to make something that was worth four years out and reflected what those years of growth were for me. I wanted to tell a story of survival, that was very honest about the lows and the highs. I wanted to say you can get through it and find self-love, which I found towards the end, that's the message."

Sande's new record tracks her journey through trauma to solitude, from optimism to celebration.

"I feel like the last four years changed me. I'm much more realistic in my view of the world and my place in it. I have grown up a lot. Before I shied away from being independent

Emeli Sande takes centre stage at Birmingham O2 Academy on Sunday



and having responsibilities and being a grown up. As long as you do your job writing songs, everything is done for you, which is amazing, but I needed to learn grown up skills and develop knowledge and independence, self-awareness and identity. Now I'm more confident in what I want to say. It's a cliché, but it's about understanding yourself and your identity. Over this time I stepped into womanhood and adulthood and understood the reality of life. I went on a crash course of life. It was a coming of age."

Sande has finally come to terms with the whirlwind nature of her success. Though she had hoped her solo work would be successful, even she was taken aback. "Before my first album came out, I wrote with Alicia Keys. She kind of became a big sister. She'd be like, 'You have to schedule personal time'. Because I wasn't that busy, I was like, Well, you're Alicia Keys — but that probably doesn't apply to me. Now looking back, I'm like, Okay, that's why she said it. Even if it feels weird scheduling it in, you have to make sure you do nothing. It's so important that your family and the people you love have your attention, and you're still involved in real life."

"When a label gets involved, and

I wanted to tell a story of survival, very honest about the highs and lows

they want to push your music even to a bigger audience, you have to start keeping up with this pace. I think that unless you're feeling very healthy — mind, body, and soul — you can't get on that racetrack. You have to be so strong, and your personal life has to just be on the back burner. And for me, that was the part I didn't really like. "There's nothing I regret. [But] I did start to feel very tired. I didn't have time to get better as an artist — and you have to live, to have something to write about. [I was] 22, 23 when it all started, and those are such crucial years to get to know yourself, especially going from a girl to a woman."

"I look up to Nina Simone, Janis Joplin, and Joni Mitchell, and the depth of their lyrics, you can tell they'd really been in love and they'd really experienced things. I wanted to do more than [make] something that was selling, I really wanted to make art. I wanted to get very deep. You know, I'd left medical school to do this. I've given up a career that would've been really special to me to do this, so I've got to do it properly."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.

Warpaint – Potent quartet



Heads Up for a new direction

It's easy to get the wrong impression about Warpaint, the Los Angeles-based rock band that have become an icon of indie cool and a touchstone for a new generation of women in rock.

The band's studio albums tend to emphasise moody atmospheres: gauzy keyboards, hypnotic harmonies and sinister grooves.

Third studio album Heads Up, released last year, varies that template somewhat with its sinewy beats. The single New Song saw them flirting with pop.

In concert, however, the potent quartet of vocalist/guitarist Emily Kokal, vocalist/

guitarist Theresa Wayman, bassist/vocalist Jenny Lee Lindberg and drummer/keyboardist Stella Mozgawa temper the moodiness with bumped-up tempos and high energy.

Fans will get to experience that when Warpaint play Birmingham's O2 Institute on Wednesday. Of course, confounding expectations has been part of Warpaint's m.o. since the band formed in 2004. And so when the band convened to make Heads Up, they shared a common goal: to make a faster, dance-orientated record.

"We've always had this really jammy, high-energy live show compared to some of our records," Kokal says. "We all love to dance. "We didn't want to take away from the

emotion or the core feeling of what our band is all about, but we wanted to bump the speed up and have a little bit more fun."

"We definitely pay attention to detail and there is a lot going on in our music," Wayman says.

Warpaint spent only four months in the studio making Heads Up, the quickest they've ever made a record.

"We have a tendency to over-marinate on certain ideas," Mozgawa says. "There wasn't a great deal of labouring over things or doing things a million different ways and overdubbing for months."

"I feel really proud of what we made," says Lindberg. "I love the way that it came together so nicely."

No More Heroes, but Stranglers still fit bill

Though propelled into the spotlight by punk rock, The Stranglers were always one of the more accomplished and musically credible New Wave bands of the 1970s.

Their melodic rock sound, with swirling keyboards from Dave Greenfield and JJ Burnell's distinctive rumbling bass, was tied to a fearsome live reputation. More than 40 years on they can still out-rock bands less than half their age.

'The Men in Black' are back on the road again this month and have a gig at Birmingham's O2 Academy on Saturday night.

Following the sell-out success of their Black and White Tour in March last year, the group will this time present the 'Classic Collection' to coincide with the planned re-

release of the entire Stranglers studio album catalogue from the period 1977-82.

With record-breaking sell-out shows and festival appearances throughout the world, public demand to hear and see The Stranglers has never been so high.

Live dates so far on the tour suggest fans can expect such early favourites as Dagenham Dave, Sometimes, Peaches, Nice 'n' Sleazy, Grip and Down In The Sewer, alongside chart hits Skin Deep, Golden Brown and No More Heroes.

Lead singer Hugh Cornwell left the band in 1990 and now The Stranglers, after a 16-year stint by Paul Roberts, are on to third lead singer, Baz Warne, formerly of Smalltown Heroes.

The Stranglers will also be bringing along special guests as the legendary Ruts DC, former punk heroes for Babylon's Burning and In A Rut, will provide the support.

Other major concerts over the next week include Brit Awards winner Emeli Sandé bringing her Long Live The Angels tour to Birmingham O2 Academy on Sunday. That's the night after the venue's no3 room presents a seven-band bill topped by Wolverhampton's Jump The Shark.

On Thursday (March 23) pop star Olly Murs starts a three-night stint at the Genting Arena.

Two top glam metal rock bands from the 1980s Hollywood scene are coming Wolverhampton Slade Rooms. LA Guns are in concert on Saturday and Love/Hate on Thursday, in between rock fans can catch Finland's Battle Beast, fronted by the formidable Noora Louhimo, on Wednesday.

The Strawbs play Bilston's Robin 2 on Wednesday and Paul Carrack has two nights at Symphony Hall on Friday and Saturday.



Malkovich teetering on brink of madness

The University of Birmingham Chorus and Symphony Orchestra are in concert at Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday. Their programme will include the sweeping majesty of Finlandia by Sibelius.

Other classic highlights include Singalong with the CBSO as chorus and orchestra, conducted by Simon Haley, perform Mendelssohn's Elijah on Sunday with tickets available to join the rehearsal that afternoon.

Hollywood star John Malkovich plays a dictator teetering on the brink of madness, standing alone against the Symphony Hall organ, played by Martin Haselböck, in Just Call Me God! on Tuesday evening.



Just gran-d as stage set for Walliams' book

Actor and comedian David Walliams is fast making a name for himself as a children's author in the tradition of Roald Dahl and, one of his latest books to be adapted for the stage, Gangsta Granny, will be at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Wednesday to Sunday.

Young Ben is anticipating a diet of cabbage and boredom when sent to spend time with his gran, but is in for a big surprise. Produced by Birmingham Stage Company, the team behind the much-loved stage versions of Horrible Histories, fans of Walliams' cheeky humour will no doubt delight in the transition from page to stage.



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Sat 22 Apr	Skipton Market & Harrogate Flower Show	£99
Sat 22 Apr	Catswolds Warline 1940's Special	£89
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Tue 25 Apr	Gino's Italian Escape - Live!	£99
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Sat 6 May	The London Motor Show	£99
Sat 13 May	Hobbycrafts, Stitch & Sew - Live!	£79
Sat 13 May	Abingdon Airshow & Windsor Bath	£99
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Brenda Blethyn

Vera (ITV, 8pm)
New series. The detective investigates when the body of a wildlife ranger is found on a remote island off the coast of Northumberland. Her death is at first assumed to be an accident, since she was alone on the island when she died, but marks on the body seem to point to murder. As Vera delves into the dead woman's personal life, she uncovers dark secrets and old resentments. Brenda Blethyn, Kenny Doughty, Jon Morrison, Christopher Colquhoun, Noof McEwan, Riley Jones, Lisa Hammond and Ewan Stewart star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Flog It! (R) **2.15** Countryfile Spring Diaries. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Lifeline. **3.55** Songs of Praise. **4.30** Shop Well for Less? (R) **5.30** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.
6.00 **The Big Painting Challenge.** Mariella Frostrup and Rev Richard Coles present the final from Greenwich. At Queen's House, the artists are challenged to paint a portrait, but are not told who the subject is until the sitting begins. For the last test of the series, the painters must depict the Old Royal Naval College as seen from the Thames – and mentors Diana Ali and Pascal Anson are not on hand to help this time. Judges Lachlan Goudie, Daphne Todd and David Dibosa assess their efforts and reveal who is this series' champion. Last in the series.
7.00 **Countryfile.** Matt Baker and Anita Rani present the show from the Hoo Peninsula, reporting on the influence of the local "salt shepherds" and efforts to protect the birds that flock to the area.
8.00 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Burton Constable Hall near Hull, where historic items brought in to be valued include a series of letters written by Florence Nightingale.
9.00 **SS-GB.** Archer and Harry have to get the king out of London, only to realise too late that they have been led into a trap. Barbara faces being deported back to the US. Last in the series.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 **Regional Programme.**
10.30 **Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Manchester City v Liverpool and Middlesbrough v Manchester United.
11.40 **American High School.** The school year draws to a close, but several seniors are at risk of failing. Jalena is given the responsibility of writing a speech for the graduation ceremony. Last in the series.
12.30 The Celebrity Apprentice USA.
1.55 Weather for the Week Ahead. **2.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.45** An Island Parish. (R) **7.15** Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **8.15** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.45** Countryfile. (R) **9.45** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.15** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **11.45** Simply Nagella. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra.
1.00 **Film: Day of the Evil Gun.** (1968) Western, starring Glenn Ford. **2.30** The House That £100K Built. (R) **3.30** Back to the Land with Kate Humble. (R) **4.30** Ski Sunday Special: Freestyle Ski & Snowboard World Championships.
6.00 **Six Nations Rugby Union.** John Inverdale introduces highlights from the final round of matches in this year's championship, featuring Ireland v England, Scotland v Italy and France v Wales.
7.00 **Robot Wars.** Dara O Briain and Angela Scanlon present the third heat. Eight teams battle it out to win a single place in the grand final, pitting robots Foxic, Expulsion, Heavy Metal, MR Speed Squared, Thor, Tauron, Chimera 2 and Concussion against each other in the arena. The show begins with two group battles, followed by a head to head between the two overall winners.
8.00 **Top Gear.** Rory Reid and Sabine Schmitz go in search of the latest supercars at Germany's Nurburgring circuit, while Matt LeBlanc test drives the Aston Martin DB11, but finds Nani's Harris and his Mercedes causing no end of trouble. Tamsin Greig takes to the Top Gear Test Track as this week's Star in a Reasonably Fast Car.
9.00 **Down the Mighty River with Steve Backshall.** Part two of two. The naturalist braves the dangerous white waters the Balium River's lower gorge and encounters a tribe that has had little contact with the outside world.
10.00 **Film: While We're Young.** (2014) Premiere. A middle-aged man and his wife have their lives turned upside down by their friendship with a younger couple. Comedy starring Ben Stiller and Naomi Watts.
11.35 **Women's Six Nations Highlights.** Ellich Barbour presents action from the concluding round of fixtures in this year's competition.
12.05 **Film: Sergeant Rutledge.** (1960) **1.50** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.50** Holy City. (R) **3.50** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Sooty. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Outdoors. (R) **7.05** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors. **8.20** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.45** Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Countrywise: Guide to Britain. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** Wild Australia with Ray Mears. (R) **11.25** Chopping Block. (R) **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **1.30** Off Their Rockers. (R) **2.00** Tipping Point. (R) **3.00** The Voice UK. (R) **5.00** Little Big Shots. (R) **6.00** **Regional Programme:** Weather.
6.10 **ITV News:** Weather.
6.30 **Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** The comedian is joined by Mel Giedroyc, Bridget Christie, Eamonn Holmes and Judith Chalmers for the madcap panel show, in which the aim is to save Earth from an alien invasion. (R)
7.00 **Five Gold Rings.** Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield, in which two friends take on a mother and son to identify images on an LED floor while viewers can play along using the series app.
8.00 **Vera.** New series. The detective investigates when the body of a wildlife ranger is found on a remote island. She seems to have been murdered, but was alone on the island when she died.
10.00 **ITV News:** Weather.
10.20 **The Nightly Show Best Bits.** Highlights of the second week of the entertainment show, with Davina McCall presenting a mix of topical monologues, studio games, celebrity guests, stand-up and video clips.
10.50 **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R)
11.50 **Angle-Welsh Cup Highlights.** Action from the final at The Stoop, as Saracens or Leicester Tigers faced Exeter Chiefs or Harlequins. Saracens lifted the trophy when this tournament last took place in 2014/15.
12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Cube. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.40 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Race of Champions 2017. **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** **Film: Rio.** (2011) Animated comedy, with the voice of Jesse Eisenberg. **3.25** **Film: Johnny English Reborn.** (2011) **5.30** Channel 4 News.
6.00 **Dave's Guide to Spending Money.** Dave Fishwick explores whether products are worth the price the public is willing to pay for them. He creates his own range of bottled water, drawn from the tap, and tries to sell it to fashionable restaurants. He also sets up his own renewable power station in his back garden with the goal of generating enough electricity to run Burnley's Christmas lights for free.
7.00 **Our Guy in India.** Guy Martin takes a 1,000-mile journey across India to compete in a race called Rider Mania, the world's largest gathering of Royal Enfield motorbikes. In the first of two programmes, the daredevil rides with a 50-strong biker gang, visits Asia's biggest truck yard and finds himself completely out of his comfort zone. (R)
8.00 **Rivers with Jeremy Paxman.** The presenter travels along the Mersey from the heights of the Peak District to the estuary at Liverpool. He discovers its role in the development of Britain's modern industry and how it has recovered from years of pollution to become a haven for wildlife. He also goes electrofishing for brown trout, scales the river's tallest bridge and investigates the mysterious Mersey Mermaids.
9.00 **Homeland.** While Carrie and Saul present evidence to Keane, Quinn tracks a mark.
10.00 **Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)
11.00 **Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the popular quiz as Sean Lock and David Mitchell compete against Jon Richardson and Katherine Ryan. The Brett Domino Trio help out in Dictionary Corner. (R)
12.00 **Film: The Five-Year Engagement.** (2012) **2.10** The Last Leg. (R) **3.05** Scruffs: Britain's Favourite Dog. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.15** Paw Patrol. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.50** Rupert Bear. (R) **7.00** Only the Little White Van. **7.05** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **7.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **7.30** Little Princess. (R) **7.45** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.00** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.25** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.40** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.00** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.30** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** The Gadget Show. (R) **1.05** **Film: Batteries Not Included.** (1987) Sci-fi fantasy, starring Jessica Tandy. **3.05** **Film: Zathura: A Space Adventure.** (2005) Family sci-fi adventure, starring Josh Hutcherson and Jonah Bobo. **5.00** **Film: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2.** (2013) Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Bill Hader.
6.50 **5 News Weekend.**
6.55 **Film: Left Behind.** (2014) The world is plunged into chaos when millions of people suddenly disappear. An airline pilot tries to save the remaining passengers on his flight, while on the ground, his daughter tries to find out if her mother and brother are among those who have vanished. Fantasy adventure based on the series of novels by Jerry B Jenkins and Tim LaHaye, starring Nicolas Cage and Lea Thompson. Edited for daytime broadcast.
9.00 **Film: Elysium.** (2013) In the future, most of the human race exists in poverty on a ruined Earth, while a wealthy elite live in luxury on an orbiting space station. A man dying of radiation poisoning fights security forces to gain access to the satellite and its medical facilities. Sci-fi thriller from the director of District 9, starring Matt Damon, Jodie Foster and Sharlto Copley. Includes 5 News Update at 10pm.
11.10 **Film: Dark Skies.** (2013) A suburban American home attracts the attention of alien invaders, who wage a campaign of terror against its residents. Sci-fi horror, starring Keri Russell and Josh Hamilton.
12.55 **Greatest Sci-Fi Movies.** (R) **2.10** SuperCasino. **4.00** Criminals: Caught On Camera. (R) **4.50** House Doctor. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Revolution and Romance: Musical Masters of the 19th Century **8.00** Classic Quartets at the BBC **9.00** Heimat Home from Home: Chronicle of a Vision – Part One **10.40** Heimat Home from Home: Chronicle of a Vision – Part Two **12.40** The Century That Wrote Itself **1.40** How to Get Ahead: At Medieval Court **2.40** Classic Quartets at the BBC **3.40** Close **ITV2**
11.00 The Voice UK **1.00** 2Awesome **1.05** 2Awesome: Guidance **1.40** 2Awesome: Fame High **2.05** 2Awesome: Third Wheel **2.30** 2Awesome: LA Story **2.50** You've Been Framed! Gold **3.55** **Film: Despicable Me** (2010) **4.55** FYI Daily **5.00** **Film: Despicable Me** (2010) **5.50** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **6.55** **Film: Red Riding Hood** (2011) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00** **Film: Red Riding Hood** (2011) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **1.25** The Vampire Diaries **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
11.45 **Film: The Pure Hell of St Trinian's** (1960) **12.45** FYI Daily **12.50** **Film: The Pure Hell of St Trinian's** (1960) **1.50** Inspector Morse **4.05** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night **10.00** Rising Damp Forever **11.05** **Film: Good Will Hunting** (1997) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** **Film: Good Will Hunting** (1997) **1.35** Inspector Morse **3.25** May the Best Horse Win **5.05** On the Buses **ITV4**
12.05 **Film: All Quiet on the Western Front** (1979) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10** **Film: All Quiet on the Western Front** (1979) **3.10** **Film: Bend of the River** (1952) **4.10** FYI Daily **4.15** **Film: Bend of the River** (1952) **5.00** River Monsters **6.00** Fishing Impossible **7.00** The Big Fish Off **8.00** Anglo-Welsh Cup Highlights **9.05** **Film: RoboCop 3** (1993) **10.10** FYI Daily **10.15** **Film: RoboCop 3** (1993) **11.15** **Film: Firefox** (1982) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20** **Film: Firefox** (1982) **2.00** The Football Mavericks **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **E4**
12.55 Made in Chelsea Does Come Dine with Me **2.00** Black-ish **2.30** The Goldbergs **4.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** **Film: Addams Family Values** (1993) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** **Film: Die Hard 2** (1990) **12.25** Tattoo Fixers **1.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.30** Gap Year **3.15** Hollyoaks

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Homefront, Channel 5, 11pm
A drug enforcement agent quits his job and relocates to a small town hoping to protect his daughter from the violent world he has to deal with. However, he is forced back into his old life when he finds his new home has a criminal underbelly dominated by a narcotics kingpin. Crime thriller, starring Jason Statham, James Franco and Winona Ryder. (2013)

TUESDAY
Locked Away, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A pregnant teenager under pressure from her mother is unsure what to do about her baby, and turns to a high-school counsellor for advice. However, her confidante is secretly desperate to have a child of her own and plots to steal the infant as soon as it is born. Thriller, starring Jean Louisa Kelly. (2010)

WEDNESDAY
Deadly Departure, Channel 5, 3.15pm
The family of FBI agent Sarah Plummer are taken hostage while she is on a flight to Washington DC. While on the flight, she meets a mysterious stranger seated beside her, and is forced to make a decision that could cost her the lives of her husband and 12-year-old son. Action, starring Dina Meyer. (2016)



Fury, Friday, Channel 5, 9pm

THURSDAY
Killer Obsession, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A National Guard soldier returns from the frontline in Iraq and struggles to return to a normal life. To make matters worse, she finds herself blamed for a friendly fire incident in which two Americans were killed – and then she becomes the target of an obsessed fellow soldier seeking revenge for their deaths. Thriller, starring Roxanne McGee. (2016)

FRIDAY
Fury, Channel 5, 9pm
A veteran American sergeant leads a tank crew on one final dangerous mission in the last months of the Second World War. The assignment takes the soldiers behind enemy lines and into battle with overwhelming enemy forces, while the presence of an inexperienced new recruit in the team raises tension. Drama, starring Brad Pitt and Shia LaBeouf. (2014)

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Comedy duo take in the sights and sounds of Budapest

The schedules are full of celebrities traveling the world and telling us all how great a certain holiday destination is.

What makes Travel Man different is that instead of us watching someone having a ball during a holiday of a lifetime, we instead sometimes get the impression that Richard Ayoade is going through a terrible time – and that makes it much more satisfying for those of us stuck at home.

Okay, many of the film director and star of The IT Crowd's gripes are probably exaggerated for the cameras, but it is nevertheless good fun watching Richard and his pals from the world of comedy effectively scouring the globe in search of the next tourist disappointment.

Tonight, Richard is joined by Irish comedian, actor and writer Aisling Bea.

Aisling won The Gilded Balloon's So You Think You're Funny award at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 2012 and is a regular guest on panel shows, including 8 Out of 10

Cats. Never Mind the Buzzcocks. Would I Lie to You? and QI, so she will certainly give Richard a run for his money in the comedy one-liner stakes.

Their destination is Budapest, a city with miles of old-world charm.

The Hungarian capital is paradise for explorers, so you'd think Richard and Aisling would find something there to tickle their fancy during their whistlestop tour.

The cynical pair spend two days in the city with the aim of taking in as many of its sights as possible, as well as passing on a few money-saving tips to viewers at home.

Culinary highlights in the fairytale city on the Danube include a steaming hot bowl of goulash – a traditional Hungarian soup or stew of meat and vegetables, seasoned with paprika and other spices.

They also visit a 'ruin pub' for a taste of unicorn, a herbal liquor which is regarded as one of the national drinks of Hungary and usually drunk as a digestif and aperitif.

Budapest sits on a patchwork of almost 125 thermal springs – more than any other capital city in the world – and 'taking the waters' has been a part of life here since people walked in togas during Roman times and the Turkish occupation.

The duo take the opportunity to visit one of these baths where they play a game of chess. Next it's onto the Zugliget chairlift, an alternative means of transport high in the Buda Hills.

The duo take a ride on the cable-suspended conveyance which takes riders up the side of János Hill and provides them with an amazing view of Budapest.

And finally they visit a statue of Columbo star Peter Falk in Falk Miksa Street.

Richard and Aisling read how there is still somewhat of a mystery surrounding this life-sized bronze reproduction of the actor, with theories suggesting it was commissioned in 2014 due to a tenuous familial connection, three years after Falk's passing.



Travel Man: 48 Hours in Budapest, Monday, Channel 4, 8.30pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Puerto Rico – Island of Enchantment: Natural World

BBC2, 9pm
The small Caribbean Puerto Rico of Puerto Rico is nicknamed the Island of Enchantment because of its beautiful beaches, amazing ambience and landmarks. Despite being only 3,515 square miles in area, it is also home to a vast array of exotic wildlife. However, many of these species are also vulnerable and countless have been pushed to the brink of extinction by human encroachment, while 95 per cent of its rainforests have been destroyed. This film, narrated by David Attenborough, profiles three conservation champions who are making it their mission to save some of the island's most precious species, namely manatees, of which only 700 remain in the wild; parrots, of which there were only 13 left at one point; and the five native species of oceanic turtle.

TUESDAY
Back to the Land with Kate Humble

BBC2, 8pm
The presenter follows innovative businesses in the Lake District through Spring, Summer and Autumn, painting portrait of the rugged landscape and gaining an insight the challenges they face. Kate Humble

helps with lambing at a fifth generation farm who have invented the world's only wool compost, so they can keep their farming traditions alive. She also goes foraging for wild food, which went to waste until one woman realised she could turn it into unique jams and preserves that are now sold nationwide

WEDNESDAY
Live International Football

ITV, 7.15pm
Germany v England. Mark Pougatch presents action from the friendly international at Signal Iduna Park in Dortmund, where England were looking to repeat last year's outstanding victory against the hosts. While the result of this match remains of some importance, the main use of the exercise for Gareth Southgate is to prepare his squad for Sunday's World Cup qualifier against Lithuania.

THURSDAY
Great British Buildings: Restoration of the Year

Channel 4, 8pm
As the host of Grand Designs, Kevin McCloud knows a thing or two about the work involved in restoring a historic building. So

he's the perfect person to co-present this new series which showcases some of the treasured buildings that have been brought back from the brink thanks to the dedication and craft skills of those involved. All of the projects have been placed on the long list by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) for their Restoration of the Year award, and in this opening edition, Kevin and Dr Anna Keay check out some of the contenders.

FRIDAY
Red Nose Day 2017

BBC1, 7pm
It's that time again when comedians and celebrities come together to have a laugh in a very good cause. Lenny Henry, Jonathan Ross, Sally Phillips, Rob Beckett, Romesh Ranganathan, Warwick Davis and Miranda Hart are among the presenters who'll be taking to East



Red Nose Day 2017, Friday, BBC1, 7pm

London's O2 stages for a night of fundraising fun and games. However, arguably the most eagerly anticipated part of the proceedings is Red Nose Day Actually, which sees writer and director Richard Curtis catching up with the characters from Love Actually to find out what they are up to 14 years on. Presumably Hugh Grant's Prime Minister isn't still in Number 10, but did he find lasting love with Martine McCutcheon's tea lady? Here's our chance to find out as Keira Knightley, Colin Firth, Liam Neeson, Bill Nighy, Andrew Lincoln, Chiwetel Ejiofor and Rowan Atkinson also return for the sequel.

Unreported World
Channel 4, 7.30pm

Marcel Theroux explores the resurgent Russian Orthodox Church, which is at the forefront of a new movement combining religion and nationalism in its home nation. Until the fall of the Soviet Union, the Church had been persecuted by the communists, but has now forged close ties with President Vladimir Putin. Theroux meets Alexander Dugin, referred to as 'Putin's brain', whose ideas have cropped up in the president's speeches, and Fr Ioann Osyak, patriarch of a family whose members are becoming national celebrities and symbols of today's Russia – religious, conservative and deeply patriotic.

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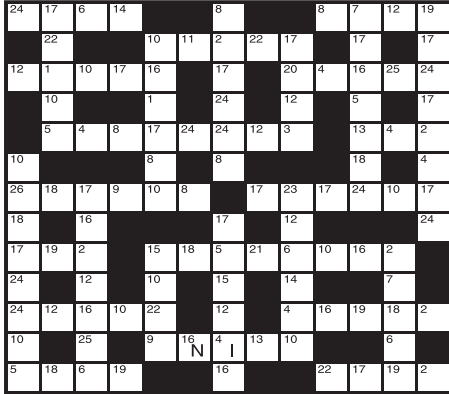
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BRAIN GYM

No.421

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16 N
4	17 I
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	M	Q	W	Z	F	K	U	A	S	B	J	R	H
14	N	X	I	Y	L	G	C	T	V	E	O	D	P

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

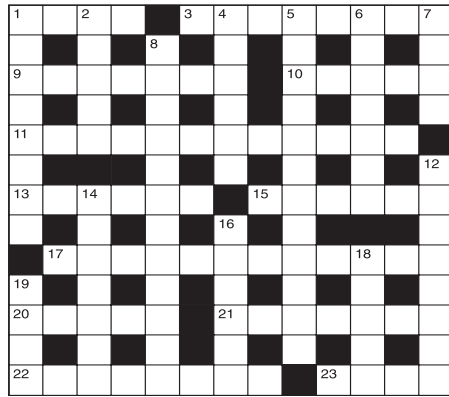
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- The flower grew (4)
- Getting a taste of palm mixture to sing about (8)
- 100 join mad craftsman in idle talk (7)
- Brown as pie (5)
- Where the little learning can be found (6,6)
- Draw out note that is legal (6)
- Threaten one politician with death (6)
- Wish joy to uncle at rag (12)
- Some are afraid a horse could get into their state (5)
- Cultivation up to being old (7)
- Giving rein to fancies of mad reign (8)
- The direction in which things are wrecked (4)

Down

- He gets the message, no doubt (8)
- Employees one should be about to lean on (5)
- Stop the others after half a year (6)
- Somehow shut my pools, about 2nd June - after I've gone (12)
- Get better, as I am to show without doubt (7)
- Happy boy has good head on him (4)
- Place found for a candidate? (8,4)
- Supporter heard ten out (8)
- Put in quarantine one who is overdue by such a margin (7)
- The box is not put upside down on the vehicle (6)
- Lower a foundation (5)
- Rear deer (4)



Quick Clues:

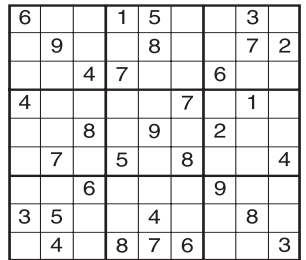
Across

- Throw (4)
- Stately (8)
- Funeral-goer (7)
- Part of a flower (5)
- Prodigality (12)
- Separate (6)
- Incentive (6)
- Conference (12)
- Aspect (5)
- Brave (7)
- Being (8)
- Carry (4)

Down

- Praises (8)
- Gush (5)
- Aviator (6)
- Rapturously (12)
- Representative (7)
- Young horse (4)
- White-hot (12)
- Miss (8)
- Infringe (7)
- Brainy (6)
- Angry (5)
- Heroic (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	3	2	8	5	1	4	7	6
5	1	7	6	3	4	9	2	8
8	4	6	7	9	2	5	3	1
3	9	5	2	4	8	1	6	7
1	7	8	5	6	3	9	2	4
6	2	4	1	7	9	8	5	3
2	5	1	3	8	7	6	4	9
7	6	9	4	1	5	3	8	2
4	8	3	9	2	6	7	1	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC: Across: 6 Recount; 7 Apron; 9 Music; 10 Keyhole; 12 Shopping; 14 Meaning look; 18 Mumbled; 19 Stick; 21 Heads; 22 Or tails. Down: 1 Debut; 2 Polish; 3 Ant; 4 Upshot; 5 Gosling; 8 Denials; 11 Spanner; 13 Deputed; 15 Nobody; 16 Outlay; 17 Scale; 20 Fry. QUICK - Across: 6 Revenue; 7 Speed; 9 Train; 10 Quieten; 12 Demonstrate; 14 Obstruction; 18 Release; 19 Stew; 21 Acid; 22 Deserve. Down: 1 Merry; 2 Recite; 3 Put; 4 Appear; 5 Beneath; 8 Pulse; 11 Roguish; 13 Absence; 15 Thesis; 16 Outset; 17 Leave; 20 Hew.

Quiz

- Who succeeded John Gregory as manager of Aston Villa?
- Who wrote Whisky Galore?
- Which country was Britain's main ally in the Seven Years' War?
- To which family of fish does the minnow belong?
- Which former England captain has managed Spurs, QPR and Bristol Rovers?
- Which US city is named after a chairman of the United States Steel Corporation?
- What is a kora?
- Which dog is named after the German for 'badger-dog'?
- What is the capital of Italy's Tuscany region?
- What nationality was playwright and novelist August Strindberg?
- Last week's solutions: Quiz: 1 Soprano; 2 Sarah Hogg; 3 1965; 4 DW Griffith; 5 Prince Andrew; 6 Dutch; 7 Jean-Paul Sartre; 8 London and Venice; 9 Tim Rice; 10 The Longships.

Niner: REACTIONS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

132359
636879
476679

gives a French port,
gives a second French port,
gives a French city.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Your Chronicle in association with Just go! HOLIDAYS

Quote: JGRT

TORBAY, LITTLE BOATS & TRAINS OF THE ENGLISH RIVIERA
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Sun 21 to Fri 26 May

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- ✓ 3 lunches including the famous Durty Nelly's pub
- ✓ Guided city tours of Galway, Limerick and Dublin with our tour manager
- ✓ Guided tour of The Burren with our tour manager
- ✓ Excursions to Brigit's Garden, Galway, Limerick, Bunratty Folk Park, The Burren, Cliffs of Moher & Dublin
- ✓ Escorted by a tour manager in Ireland
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The Ticket

Make a night of it

Soul sister – enjoy a night in the city before Emeli's gig



Emeli Sandé will be singing her heart out at The O2 Academy in Birmingham on Sunday. Here at The Ticket, we wonder where the Scottish songstress would go to eat, drink and be merry on a night out before a gig. Read All About It. . .

MAKING A MEAL



The Mailbox is the place to go for a meal before you don your dancing shoes. There's oodles of places to choose from, so if you fancy a quick bite to eat there are burgers, pizzas or even tapas on the menu. There are also pubs and bars if you just want to grab a beer or vino before you see the gig. If you prefer something more decadent than Marco Pierre White's restaurant at The Cube is top of the list. Fine dining with glorious views over the city will make this a real night to remember. We reckon Emeli would love a slap-up dinner there.

THREE CHEERS



Pre-gig drinks are a must on a night out so why not head to a place full of heart and soul? The Island Bar is a stone's throw from the O2 on Suffolk Street, Queensway, and is a tropical paradise offering loads of cocktails including a Mint Choc Martini laced with vodka and chocolate mint liqueur. If you're stopping in the city overnight after the gig, Quarter Horse coffee shop on Bristol Street serves a scrumptious breakfast. Think sour dough toast or cakes and pastries washed down with incredible coffee. Sounds like Heaven.

SLEEP IT OFF



POSH PAD

Lie Next To Me at the four-star Malmaison hotel in the Mailbox. Here you can enjoy food, drink and sleep in uber stylish surrounds: think modern and moody, sultry and slick. There's a brasserie and a bar so you can have dinner and drinks before you head to the show. There's a vibrant atmosphere so it'll certainly get you in the mood. Why not make a weekend of it as there's also a spa if you want to kick back, relax and indulge? There are rooms and suites available. We love the look of the super quirky Nirvana suite (pictured above) which screams colourful and punky. It even has a mirrored Jacuzzi, perfect for bubbles in bubbles! Prices vary but can be as little as £75 depending on the date.

DISCOUNT DOZE

If you need to watch your bank balance and require a cheap sleep, head to The Comfort Inn, Station Street. It's only a 10-minute walk from the venue so a quick and easy stopover after a big night. The rooms are basic but comfy enough for you to rest your weary head and tired tootsies. The best bit is that it won't cost much leaving you some spare change to download loads of Emeli's music.

GET THERE

It's easy peasy as it's on the main drag into the city making it accessible by train, car or bus. Catch the train and head to Birmingham New Street and the O2's only a 10-minute walk from the station. By bus it's a case of hopping off at the nearest stop to the venue. Or by car there are loads of places park up. If you don't want to spend a fortune on fees then you could park further out of the city centre and walk/bus/train in to the city.

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Traditional style detached house is well proportioned

An individually designed three-bedroomed traditional detached house, 81 New Street, Gornal Wood, Dudley, is well proportioned and has scope for further enhancement and upgrading.

It is for sale through Wakeman at £179,950 with no chain.

It has a storm porch, entrance hall, cloakroom/WC, two living rooms, a breakfast kitchen, sitting room, three bedrooms, a bathroom, gardens and a concrete store room.

This property is positioned on a wide corner plot close to Gornal Wood Village centre, where a wide range of amenities are available. The property has been extended and enlarged and offers well proportioned accommodation with potential for further enhancement and upgrading to a discerning buyers own style and taste.

With gas central heating and double glazing, in more detail the storm porch has a hardwood door. The entrance hall has a leaded and stained glassed entrance door.

The cloakroom/WC has part tiled walls. The living room has a bay window to the front and a fireplace with a wooden surround and a gas fire with a back boiler.

A second living room to the rear has a brick fireplace with a gas fire. The breakfast kitchen has a breakfasting area and an L-shaped kitchen area.

The sitting room - the former garage - has secondary glazing and a gas convector heater.

Off the first floor landing, bedroom one has a bay window overlooking the front. Bedroom two has a bay window to the rear.

Bedroom three has a window with secondary glazing to the front.

Outside, the property occupies a wide road frontage to New Street with metal a gated pedestrian access to the front and left hand side and a vehicular access to front right hand side. There is a lawned front and side garden with shrub borders, an ornamental garden pool and a concrete pathway. A driveway leads to ample off street parking.

GORNAL WOOD £179,950



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Wakeman

TEL: 01384 459999

EMAIL: dudley@wakeman-online.com

KEY FEATURES

Individually designed

Detached

3 bedrooms

3 receptions

No chain



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HIMLEY, Bridgnorth Road
A PERIOD DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCE offering an EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS layout, RECENTLY IMPROVED comprising: Porch, Hall, large Lounge, formal Dining Room, Second Sitting Room, spacious Dining / Kitchen, Utility, Guest Cloaks/WC, FIVE BEDROOMS and SPACIOUS FAMILY BATHROOM. LARGE DRIVE, GARAGE and BROAD REAR GARDEN private and sunny. EPC D



GORNAL WOOD, Guys Lane
SPACIOUS, gas centrally heated, double glazed FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOM detached recently completed to an exemplary specification comprising: porch, hall, cloakroom, dining room, lounge, magnificent 17 ft kitchen with a range of high gloss finish units, utility room, Gallery landing, Four double bedrooms, bathroom, Garage, landscaped grounds. EPC: B SEDGLEY



DUDLEY, Cowley Drive, Milking Bank
Sited on corner plot on the popular MILKING BANK & having been lovingly improved and extended this DETACHED property is an ideal family home. Boasting gas central heating & double glazing this FIVE BEDROOM house also benefits from: hall, living room, sitting / family room, dining room, kitchen-diner, utility room, ground floor shower room, master bedroom with ensuite, walk-in wardrobe to second bedroom, bathroom, Parking for ample vehicles & extensive enclosed side and rear gardens. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC: D SEDGLEY

£439,000

Offers in the region of £400,000

Offers in the region of £324,950



DUDLEY, Richborough Drive
Magnificent "PENTHOUSE STYLE" SECOND FLOOR PRINCIPAL BEDROOM SUITE! Tremendously enhanced/enlarged, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached at head of cul-de-sac with PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS comprising: hall, cloaks, 22'10" lounge/dining room with CONSERVATORY beyond, kitchen, utility room, Three bedrooms (one with shower room en suite), bathroom. Second floor 22 ft by 17 ft principal bedroom suite with centre piece 'jacuzzi'. Garage, garden. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

New price WAS £255,000, NOW £249,995



LOWER GORNAL, Longfellow Road, Straits
NO UPWARD CHAIN. Well maintained semi-detached property in the very desirable area of 'THE STRAITS' Lower Gornal. As well as having an EXTENSION to rear which incorporates a wet room, sitting room, utility, guest W/C and utility room, this home also boasts: porch, hall, living room, extended dining room, extended kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, garage, enclosed rear garden with driveway and garden to front. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £219,950



LOWER GORNAL, Shakespeare Road, Straits
Spacious, Freehold, gas centrally heated (combi boiler) & majority UPVC double glazed detached bungalow within reasonable walking distance of so many day-to-day amenities briefly comprising: porch, central reception hall, cloaks, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, lounge, breakfast kitchen, pantry, store, through lobby, Brick garage (automated door), secluded rear garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £215,000



SEDGLEY, Brownswall Road
An EXTENDED TREMENDOUSLY IMPROVED gas centrally heated and UPVC double glazed semi detached in highly favoured neighbourhood that has been transformed by present vendors in recent months comprising: porch, hall, magnificent 31'9" through living room with lounge and dining room sections, refitted kitchen, three generous bedrooms, bathroom with white contemporary style suite and a shower, large 18'10" x 8'7" garage with two stores, landscaped gardens. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £195,000



LOWER GORNAL, Oakland Drive
Well maintained SEMI DETACHED located in the desirable area of LOWER GORNAL, & benefiting from gas central heating & double glazing, this EXTENDED property also boasts hall, living room, dining area, conservatory, breakfast-kitchen, integral garage, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, delightfully tended enclosed rear garden, good-sized driveway and garden to front. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £190,000



DUDLEY, Summerfield Road
This STUNNING & EXTENDED, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, CONTEMPORARY GLOSS KITCHEN, Three Well Decorated Family Bedrooms, MODERN BATHROOM, Excellent Driveway, DIVINE REAR GARDEN & GARAGE! EPC:

£159,950



KINGSWINFORD, Oak Street
Superbly located within Kingswinford's sought after Old Quarter, this LARGE PERIOD MID TERRACE FAMILY HOUSE offers a very generous THREE BEDROOM layout with FANTASTIC POTENTIAL FOR UPDATING / IMPROVEMENT, plus a large garden. EPC D

No upward chain £154,950



COSELEY, Upper Ettingshall Road
FANTASTIC - Exceptionally stylish, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached bungalow that has been transformed in recent years by present vendors to a stunning specification comprising: hall, refitted kitchen leading into a transverse lounge/orangery addition, Three bedrooms, shower room, Lengthy garden. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. EPC D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £154,950



UPPER GORNAL, The Paddock
Gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed traditional style semi set at head of cul-de-sac (just off Clarence Street) this much improved home comprises entrance porch, reception hall, walk in cloaks, under stair store, 2'3"9" through living/dining room, refitted kitchen, upgraded utility room; three bedrooms (two with fitted wardrobes), tiled upgraded bathroom, large garage, recently block paved foregarden, sheltered rear garden. EPC C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £154,950



KINGSWINFORD, Tiverton Close
A MOST DECEPTIVE SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME which is superbly located, close to schools/ shops offering a spacious layout, requiring updating/improvement, including THREE LARGE BEDROOMS. Set beyond the DRIVEWAY with GARAGE and an enclosed rear garden. EPC D

No upward chain £150,000



WOODSETTON, Parkes Hall Lane
NO UPWARD CHAIN. A well-proportioned traditional EXTENDED semi-detached situated in the popular Woodsetton area of Dudley. Offering plenty of scope for improvement, this property benefits from porch, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, breakfast-kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, with detached garage, enclosed rear garden and driveway. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £119,950



BRIERLEY HILL, Rookery Avenue
This ATTRACTIVELY PRESENTED & RATHER DECEPTIVE, THOUGHTFULLY IMPROVED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Attractive Lounge, SPLENDID MODERN KITCHEN, Three First Floor Bedrooms, White Suite Bathroom & Large Garden. EPC D

£114,950



SEDGLEY, Lime Road
A conscientiously maintained majority gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) and UPVC double glazed intermediate 'starter home' with further potential. Set in a popular/convenient district the accommodation includes entrance porch, reception hall, store, lounge, kitchen, dining room, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, through lobby, outer porch, two stores, WC, off road parking, garden. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £112,000



LOWER GORNAL, Stickley Lane
This double fronted, linked-semi-detached property has much room for improvement and has a lot to offer. Benefiting from driveway and enclosed rear garden this house also offers: two reception rooms, Kitchen, utility, guest W/C, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom and is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £109,950



PENSNETT, Church Street
This STYLISHLY APPOINTED & THOUGHTFULLY EXTENDED, TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Stylish Lounge, Dining Room, STUNNING CONTEMPORARY STYLE KITCHEN, MODERN BATHROOM, Low Maintenance Rear Garden & Side Veranda. EPC D

£104,950

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New



SEDGLEY, Sunningdale Road. Northway

ENVIABLY SITUATED with magnificent PANORAMIC DISTANT VIEWS a spacious EXTENDED & comprehensively refurbished/upgraded detached upon corner plot abutting onto fields comprising; hall, cloakroom, L shape 19'8 through living/dining room with double doors through to CONSERVATORY, extended/recently refitted 18'10" x 16'4" dining kitchen, den/ snug off and utility room. THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS, bathroom, extensive grounds. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY.

New



LOWER GORNAL, The Straits

ENLARGED, gas centrally heated, double glazed detached two/three bedroom within walking distance of so many amenities comprising; porch, hall, principal bedroom with wardrobes, study (occasional third bedroom), refitted dining kitchen with high gloss white finish units, utility room, bathroom, second bedroom, inner vestibule, walk in dressing room with a fine range of first quality units, shower/wet room, LARGE GARAGE, neat garden. EPC:TBA SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, 'Algar Grange', Off Dudley Road

With construction now completed, and just 2 plots still available for sale, an exciting development of gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed BUNGALOWS so conveniently situated for Sedgley's Bull Ring & all associated amenities. Two designs available with prices from £230,000 up to £279,000.-Further details with Agents Sedgley Office. SAP: T.B.A.

Offers in the region of £300,000

Offers in the region of £245,000

PRICES FROM £230,000



QUARRY BANK, Thorns Road

WITH VIEWS OVER LOOKING STEVENS PARK, This QUITE UNIQUE & MOST DECEPTIVE, SPACIOUS, THREE BEDROOM, DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, SPACIOUS LOUNGE, Kitchen, Shower Room, Substantial Driveway, GARAGE, Secluded Gardens. EPC E

£189,950



PENSNETT, Fernhurst Drive

This WELL ARRANGED, FOUR BEDROOM, DETACHED FAMILY HOME has gas central heating and is available with NO UPWARD CHAIN. In brief; Porch, Hall, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Four Bedrooms (Master with ENSUITE) and House Bathroom. Wide Drive, Garage and Large Rear Garden. EPC:D

£185,000



WOLVERHAMPTON, Farrington Road, Ettingshall Park

Gas centrally heated, double glazed, conscientiously maintained semi detached with lengthy garden backing on to "Beacon" open space with tremendous distant views comprising; porch, hall, 25' through living/dining room, pantry, kitchen. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garage, block paved driveway,garden. EPC: E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £185,000



KINGSWINFORD, Cherry Tree Road

A BEAUTIFULLY & COMPREHENSIVELY REFURBISHED MODERN SEMI DETACHED FAMILY HOME which enjoys a cul-de-sac position, close to schools/shops, offering a SUCCESSFULLY EXTENDED layout including THREE LARGE BEDROOMS. With FULL WIDTH DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a landscaped rear garden. EPC D

No upward chain

£184,950



WOODSETTON, Sedgley Road

A conscientiously maintained much improved gas centrally heated (recent combi boiler) and UPVC double glazed detached with GARAGE AT REAR (and additional parking) in a popular neighbourhood. Accommodation provides entrance hallway, cupboard, lounge, transverse dining kitchen (with patio doors to garden) store, three bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, neat garden, garage and parking. EPC Rating D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £165,000



KINGSWINFORD, Surrey Drive

Enjoying a secluded and superb position, this BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED MODERN END MEWS has TWO CAR PARKING SPACES to the fore and enjoys a very private and beautifully landscaped rear garden, a position which enhances the BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED layout which includes TWO BEDROOMS. EPC D

£139,950



LANESFIELD, Ward Grove

ABSOLUTELY OUTSTANDING comprehensively renovated, freehold, gas centrally heated, double glazed semi detached bungalow in convenient district. Superb accommodation provides refitted 'hub of the home' kitchen with a fine range of units (various integrated appliances), reappointed shower room, lounge with bay, walk in store, two double bedrooms, gardens. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC: D SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £129,950



BRIERLEY HILL, Roach Close

This MOST APPEALING & STYLISHLY DECORATED, TWO BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Porch, Hall, Stylish Lounge, WELL FITTED KITCHEN, White Suite Bathroom, Driveway, Garage & ATTRACTIVE GARDEN. EPC

£124,950



COSELEY, Rounds Hill Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Conveniently located, this ideal starter home has been well maintained with both central heating and double glazing. This semi-detached property also benefits from entrance hallway, through lounge-diner, fitted kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, enclosed rear garden, garden and drive to front. EPC:E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £124,950



WOODCROSS, Beacon Street

Situated on periphery of Sedgley (just off Bath Street), a tremendously modernised, Freehold, gas centrally heated & double glazed intermediate "starter home" that has been much enhanced by present vendors comprising; lounge, refitted breakfast kitchen with a fine range of 'cherrywood' effect units. Two bedrooms, bathroom with a white suite. Secluded rear garden, off road parking. EPC: D SEDGLEY

WAS £124,950,NOW £119,950



WORDSLEY, Crownoakes Drive

This SPACIOUS, ATTRACTIVE & IMPRESSIVE FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT enjoys perhaps one of the best positions with views of field/trees, offering GENEROUS accommodation, including A LARGE DOUBLE BEDROOM. Allocated RESIDENT plus VISITOR PARKING. EPC C

No upward chain

£96,950



PENSNETT, Tiled House Lane

This WELL PROPORTIONED & VERY WELL ARRANGED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Hall, Pleasant Lounge, Well Fitted Kitchen, Guests Cloakroom, Three Large First Floor Bedrooms, Shower Room & HUGE REAR GARDEN! EPC: D

£90,000



PENSNETT, Blewitt Street

This WELL ARRANGED & THOUGHTFULLY EXTENDED, THREE BEDROOM, SEMI-DETACHED HOME comprises: Porch, Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Breakfast Kitchen, Three Good First Floor Bedrooms, House Shower Room, Driveway & Large Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN! EPC E

£89,950



WOODCROSS, Kossuth Road

A great opportunity to acquire a well maintained semi-detached property in the Coseley area of Wolverhampton. Benefiting from driveway to front and enclosed rear garden, this THREE BEDROOM family home also comprises of; living room, kitchen-diner, shower room, and is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £84,950



SEDGLEY, Tipton Road

Gas centrally heated, cavity wall insulated, majority UPVC double glazed GROUND FLOOR two bedroom flat for improvement. Excellently situated within reasonable distance of open fields/ day-to-day amenities the accommodation includes entrance hallway, living/dining room, kitchen, inner hallway, two bedrooms, bathroom, boiler room, shared grounds, brick garage, SHORT LEASE. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £80,000

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'Little gem' ideal for cosmetic improvements

WILLENHALL
£125,000

Described as "a little gem" by its selling agents, this two-bedroom semi-detached house in Rockland Gardens, Willenhall, is an ideal project for cosmetic improvements.

It is for sale through Rees Page at £125,000 with no chain. There is modern double glazing as well as a Worcester heating boiler, a side drive and a garage with an electric door.

It has an entrance door, a lounge with a wooden fire surround, a dining kitchen with a range of base and wall units with recesses for appliances, a pantry cupboard, two bedrooms – both with wardrobes and a bathroom with a corner shower cubicle, wash basin and WC. The rear garden has a patio, lawn and fenced borders.

Call 01902 577775 or visit www.reespage.com



Modern six-bed town house has accommodation over three floors

BILSTON
£240,000

<<<

If size is what you are looking for in your new home, then this one in Mullion Drive, Bilston, has it all!

With six bedrooms, this offering in Mullion Drive, is for sale through Paul Dubberley at offers over £240,000.

Coming with off-road parking and a garage, it also has a lounge and dining room, a fitted kitchen, a bathroom and shower room and first-floor cloakroom, central heating and double glazing.

In more detail, the entrance hall has stairs off to the first floor. The lounge has a door leading into the dining room.

The kitchen includes an integrated electric oven and gas hob, a cooker hood, plumbing for a washing machine, a door leading to a pantry/under-stairs storage and lino effect flooring.

Call 01902 494966.



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BREWERS WALK, DUDLEY ROAD, SEDGLEY
£237,000

- New build detached house
- Situated on new small development
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68 LOUISE STREET, LOWER GORNAL O/A £175,000

- Improved & enhanced extended detached house
- Well proportioned three bedroom accommodation
- Conveniently positioned close to Gornal Wood village centre
- Ample parking on driveway plus garage, private rear garden
- EPC RATING D



81 NEW STREET, GORNAL WOOD O/A £179,950

- Individually designed and built traditional style detached house
- Well proportioned, extended and enlarged three bedroom accommodation
- Potential for further enhancement & upgrading to a discerning buyers own style
- Occupying a wide road frontage with ample off road parking
- EPC RATING E



10 HIGH ARCAL ROAD £164,950

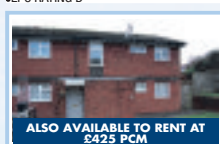
- Extended semi detached house
- Three bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Extended kitchen
- EPC RATING D

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46 WELLSRING GARDENS £89,950

- Second floor apartment
- Two bedrooms
- Situated on a new development
- Low maintenance
- EPC RATING B



69 JOCKEY FIELDS £65,000

- One bedroom plus nursery/study
- Gas centrally heated
- Communal grounds
- EPC RATING C



102 PENZER AVENUE £750 pcm

- Semi detached house
- Two bedrooms
- Conservatory
- Re-fitted kitchen & bathroom
- EPC RATING D



111 STOURBRIDGE ROAD £560 pcm

- Modern terraced house
- Two bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- EPC RATING C

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Landscaped large garden at detached 4-bed home

WOLVERHAMPTON
£450,000 <<<

New to the property market, this stunning and spacious Georgian-style four-bedroom detached home in Goldthorn Park is for sale through butters john bee at £450,000.

A well proportioned house in Ednam Road, Wolverhampton, has accommodation briefly comprising a reception hall with a turning staircase, three reception rooms, a kitchen, a laundry, a cloak room, four bedrooms, a bathroom, a garage and large landscaped gardens.

In more detail, the impressive entrance hall has built-in cupboards. The through lounge has patio doors to the garden and a feature brick fireplace with a tiled hearth and coal-effect gas fire.

The dining room has a decorative fireplace.

Contact butters john bee on 01902 710888 or visit www.buttersjohnbee.com



Spacious home in a much-favoured area

PENN
£175,000

A spacious semi-detached three-bedroomed house in an attractive elevated setting in Holden Road, Penn, Wolverhampton, lies in a much favoured area.

It is for sale through Jackson Lile & Close at £175,000. It has a porch, reception hall, a front living room, a rear sitting room, a well-fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, a separate WC, deluxe bathroom, gas central heating, majority double glazing, a garage and delightfully landscaped garden.

In more detail, the front living room has a bay window, a feature marble fireplace with an electric living flame-effect fire. The rear sitting room has a French window with a door leading to the rear garden.

Contact Jackson Lile & Close on 01902 712812 or visit www.jacksonlileandclose.co.uk



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Modern first-floor flat in established location

UPPER GORNAL

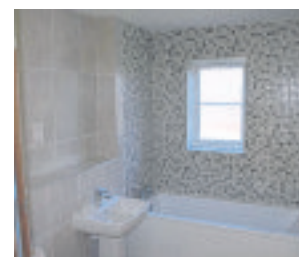
£65,000

This one-bedroomed flat for sale in Jockey Fields, Upper Gornal, Dudley, is a modern first-floor property in an established location.

Also having a study/nursery room, it is for sale through Wakeman at £65,000.

Its accommodation comprises an entrance hall, a landing, a living room, a kitchen, bedroom, a study/nursery room, and communal grounds. The property can be found midway between Sedgley and Dudley, being convenient for a wide range of amenities.

For more contact Wakeman on 01384 459999.



One of only two new bungalows in project still to be purchased

SEDGLEY

£279,000

<<<

One of only two bungalows now remaining – with the show home available to view by appointment – Number 5 is the Hagley model off Dudley Road, Sedgley.

It is for sale through Taylors at £279,000. With construction now complete, this home has an imposing reception hall, a transverse living room/kitchen with an extensive range of fitted units and many integrated appliances, utility room with a door to the substantial garage, a fitted cloakroom/WC, two double bedrooms and a stylish bathroom with a white suite.

It also has a garage and turfed gardens.

Contact Taylors on 01902 880888 or visit www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk



Superbly presented and spacious double-fronted home

A superbly presented and surprisingly spacious double-fronted detached family home in Unitt Drive, Cradley Heath lies on a popular development.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £199,950.

Its accommodation briefly comprises of a large lounge with a study area off, a separate

CRADLEY HEATH

£199,950

dining room, a fitted kitchen with appliances, a utility, a downstairs cloakroom/WC, a conservatory, four bedrooms with a master having an en suite and house bathroom.

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Skoda nails it with first attempt at SUV market

This is a huge car for Skoda. Tapping into the ever-flourishing SUV market, the Kodiaq aims to give consumers a large, spacious and comfortable vehicle – but for a much lower price than those found with more premium rivals.

Equipped with one of three engines – a 1.4-litre petrol, 2.0-litre petrol or 2.0-litre diesel – the Kodiaq is aiming squarely at larger families who still want to keep running costs low. That means that even base-specification cars get a huge amount of standard equipment, while buyers of higher-grade models won't feel short-changed either, given the increase in the amount of tech on pricier versions.

This is a completely new segment for Skoda, and shows a lot of intent from the Czech brand. Well-known now for making reliable and well-priced cars, the Kodiaq comes as an extension of that ethos. With the decline of MPV and rise of SUV, the Kodiaq is a natural progression for the company – but it has to get it right first time if it hopes to succeed.

We think that Skoda has hit the nail on the head with the Kodiaq. It looks purposeful enough, but not too intimidating. The brand is doing well to shake off its "boring" image that was associated with it for many years, with the Kodiaq helping this endeavour. Even base-specification cars ride on 17-inch alloy wheels.



Skoda is tapping into the flourishing SUV market

while top-of-the-range "Edition" cars are fitted with large 19-inchers. Everything about the car feels solid and well put together – though there's no mistaking that the Kodiaq is a Volkswagen group car, with plenty of tech included that we've seen on other cars.

If you're looking to transport a large family, then space is essential. Thankfully, this is where the Kodiaq does exceptionally well. The five-seat car affords its users a colossal 2,065 litres of boot space with the rear seats folded flat – the largest load area in the class. The boot's lip isn't too high either, which makes loading larger items in and out a little easier, while the completely flat bed with the seats lowered adds to the excellent usability of the boot. For those looking to take two more people, there's the seven-seat version, giving another string to the Kodiaq's already well-strung bow. You're not going to incur much of a penalty in the practicality stakes for picking the seven-seater either, as its seats-flat load area is reduced to a still respectable 2,005 litres – which isn't bad at all. However, with that final row raised the boot space is somewhat tight – something worth remembering if you're planning on using the Kodiaq as a seven-seater most of the time.

The Kodiak is offered from launch with two petrol engines, a 1.4-litre turbocharged unit producing 123bhp, and a 2.0-litre turbocharged one putting out 178bhp. There's also a 2.0-litre turbocharged diesel, which produces either 148bhp or 187bhp – the former of which is set to undoubtedly become the best seller. Of course, the petrol units will suit those looking to drive the Kodiak mainly around town, though the diesels will be the better option for people who plan on undertaking more miles. In short, there's a good range of engines that offer something for everyone.

You've also got the option of either a six-speed manual, six-speed DSG or seven-speed DSG gearbox. Of course, four-wheel drive can be specified on all powertrains, though you'll see a slight premium for this option. For example, while the base 1.4-petrol with a manual gearbox and two-wheel drive comes in at £21,495, the four-wheel-drive version – albeit only available in higher grade SE trim – retails for £25,445.

When you first get into the Kodiaq, it can feel a little intimidating. Make no bones about it, it's a big car. However, once you're up and running, these reservations quickly disappear, as it's surprisingly agile through the bends.

In any spec the Kodiahq features a lot of technology, which will be popular with those looking to get a little bit more for their money.



Inside the new spacious and comfortable Kodiak

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The offer is for those who buy a 17-plate Vauxhall between March 17-21 and applies across much of its range

£500 bonus with new Vauxhall

With spring bank holidays just around the corner, Vauxhall is helping motorists make the most of their family time with £500 spending money.

Those who buy a new 17-plate Vauxhall between March 17 and 21 will be treated to this exciting offer and will drive off with a pre-paid debit card to spend on anything they want.

This exciting offer is available across much of the Vauxhall range, including the Mokka X, ADAM and award-

winning Astra. Named Best Family Car for under £18,000 by What Car?, the Astra blends style with technology to create the ultimate family car.

What's more, with a £500 pre-paid debit card with every new 17-plate Astra sold during the event, families will be able to make more of days out together.

In addition to the £500 spending money, customers will also be able to take advantage of Vauxhall's 20 per cent discount on all genuine

and approved Vauxhall accessories, including sat navs, iPhone/iPad cradles and cargo liners, when they purchase a new car or van during the event. These deals are on top of Vauxhall's existing range of available offers.

What's more, customers who buy a new Vauxhall during the event could also see a saving of up to £500 on models such as the Corsa VXR ahead of the new tax changes, which will come into force in April.

Marathon man Dave hits the road with Sandwell Garages

Blind Dave Heeley is well known locally for his fundraising for charity and Sandwell Garages of West Bromwich are very happy to keep him on the road. They are the ones who recently supplied him with his Motability car.

Dave loves to run marathons, including being the first and only blind person in the world to have completed seven marathons, in seven days on seven different continents.

He's given broadcaster Adrian Goldberg a haircut and has even flown a plane! "He has done so much," said Pravin Mistry, the Sandwell Garages Motability Adviser. "With his dedication to helping others, I'm surprised he's never been nominated for an M.B.E. or something."

Dave was very pleased to receive his new Motability Vauxhall Zafira. The Motability Scheme was first set up in 1978 and enables people to use their government-funded mobility allowance to drive a new vehicle. And as Dave knows, with Motability at Sandwell, you can lease a brand-new Vauxhall every three years.

The scheme is all inclusive. The insurance, breakdown assistance, servicing and maintenance is all included in the price. And this applies to two named drivers. Everything is taken care of, you just add fuel and go.

With Vauxhall Motability, you have Vauxhall OnStar's protection, where



Dave Heeley with Pravin Mistry, Sandwell Garages motability adviser

you simply press a button on the overhead console and speak to a trained Vauxhall OnStar advisor anytime, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. And in the event of an accident where the airbags are deployed, it will trigger automatically and people will quickly come to your aid.

It's the sort of personal help that Sandwell's Motability adviser Pravin is able to explain to their Motability customers, guiding them through the process to having their own Vauxhall

Motability vehicle. Pravin's help enables Dave to concentrate on the important things, and for him that is his 24 Great Runs Series 2017.

It's to raise funds for The Albion Foundation which uses football and the link with West Bromwich Albion to make a difference in the local community. You can read more about it and make a donation by going to the Just Giving website at: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/blinddavegreatrunseries2017.



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Celerio's a tight little bundle of character

By Matt Kimberley

Take the Alto platform, improve the rear suspension, give it much more space and lift the driving position and you'll end up with something a lot like the Celerio. But hold your horses because the new small Suzuki is worth a good deal more than the sum of its parts.

What's with the name, you ask? Well, we're told it hints at a celestial river of stars in the sky.

Obviously. Either way, the Celerio replaces both the Alto and the Splash.

It's just about wider than it is tall, but thanks to the new, more advanced rear suspension it's much more stable than it might be. The roof height allows a raised set of seats, and higher seats mean more legroom – and that's the key to the Celerio's image. It's a practical five-seat car, not a feather boa-wearing flounder.

It's certainly not as pretty as the new Renault Twingo, for example, and it doesn't have the mature air of the Volkswagen Up, but its inoffensive styling hides a tight little bundle of character.

The boot is the biggest in the class; two litres bigger than the Hyundai i10's even though the Hyundai is 6cm longer overall. It's nice and evenly shaped, too; not too deep or at all hard to access.

Four adults will wonder what witchcraft is at work,



The boot is the biggest in its class

but the fact is that four average-height men can slot into the Celerio with no problem. Three children can fit across the rear bench at a squeeze, but many of the little Suzuki's rivals can't seat five at all.

There are two engines; a standard 1.0-litre that has no trouble hustling the mere 835kg car along if you keep it above 3,000rpm, or an upgraded unit with a whisker more torque that should be a little stronger at low revs. This SZ4-spec car is powered by the former.

The composure in the chassis is pretty impressive, but what's even more so is the ride quality, which for a sub-£9,000 car riding on 14-inch alloy wheels is brilliant – testament to Suzuki's insistence on testing prototypes on UK roads.

The interior, while it makes a good first impression, feels increasingly dated the longer you sit in it.

But it's by no means the worst in class and just check out the level of equipment you get as standard: Bluetooth, air conditioning, DAB radio, remote central locking, a trip computer and MPG meter, USB and 12-volt sockets... the list goes on.

Then check out the super-tight turning circle. You'll be laughing all the way to the high street when you park nimbly in gaps that other cars have to give up on.

Arguably, if you can stomach the manually-adjustable door mirrors and their unpainted housings, the £7,999 SZ3 model is the real bargain.

It shares most of the SZ4's mighty kit list for a £1,000 saving. That's also a huge chunk less than an equivalently-equipped competitor can cost.

Buyers are likely to be sensible types who know that what they need is more important than what they might want. City cars like the Fiat 500 and Smart ForFour have the Celerio beaten for style, but the Suzuki can hold its head high in the knowledge that it's just about the most spacious, most practical city car out there with a wedge of its own character to boot.

This car summed up in a single word: Overachiever.

If this car was a...: Hollywood film character it would be Rocky: always the underdog but more than capable of fighting its corner.



The roof height allows a raised set of seats, and higher seats mean more legroom

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window the same night and
any further information
please ring
01902 788768.

LOST PASSPORT
I Karzan Latef Noori.
Passport number G170 9419.
Please telephone
07521 370000.

1 Family

elderly & disabled

Capitol Mobility
Showroom in Bath St., Bilston

ARE YOU ON A DLA OR PIP?
YOU COULD HAVE A SCOOTER OR ELECTRIC
WHEELCHAIR ON WEEKLY TERMS!
OVER 25 YEARS SALES / SERVICE ALL
MOBILITY EQUIPMENT

01902 409929
www.capitolmobility.co.uk

ACORN / BROOKS STRAIGHT
STAIRLIFTS Wanted, Working or
not, rapid removal. 07967 003600

ELECTRIC POWER CHAIR
Romantic Reno 11 electric
wheelchair, with captain seat,
purchased August 2016, only
used inside, excellent condi-
tion, charger and user manual.
£450 ono.
01384 373161.

MOBILITY SCOOTERS from £350
can deliver, servicing available.
Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384
255019 / 07831 246292.

PRO-RIDER C3 DELUXE Motor
scooter, maximum speed 60mph,
used only once due to illness. £450
ono. 07724 084908.

TWO WHEELCHAIRS good condi-
tion, £45 each.
1902 679483.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS (recondi-
tioned lifts from £799. New avail-
able. 01952 405397/07897 273617

jewellery & watches

OMEGA SPEEDMASTER
MOON WATCH
2001, full box and papers, small
mark on glass otherwise very
good condition.
£2,450.
0121 5206534.

WANTED OLD GENTS
WRIST WATCHES
All makes and models.
Working or broken.
Telephone 07979 020256.

BUY LOCAL
SELL LOCAL

01902 317878

ClassifiedAds

2 Leisure Time

boats & water sports

CANALBOAT 55FT Stern
cruiser/diner layout, includes
fridge and freezer, full size gas
cooker, £39,000 ono.
01922 443287.

car boot sales

COL'S CAR BOOT & MARKET
OPEN EVERY
WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY
at Himley Bypass, B4176
Ring Colin: 07973 904585
www.colscarboot.co.uk
@colscarboot
OPEN ALL YEAR

caravans / motorhomes

We Want Your Motorhome

Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid

Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

COSALT CAPRI SUPER 28x12, 2
bedroom, £12,000 decking
included, 2017 site fee included.
Contact Mr Ayre 07809 607 535

KAMPA RALLY CLUB 260 porch
awning, 10ft x 8ft, brown and gold,
good condition, £80. 0121 293
3449.

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN/
Motorhome for you and get the best
possible price. Severn Valley
Leisure, D15 4HP. 01384 390183

LUNAR 462

1998, two berth, model LX2000
with Powertouch Mover, plus
Toursure Porch Awning.

Ready to go.
Serviced June 2016.
£2,200
Phone 01902 893055.

OXYGEN SPEED X1 inflatable
awning with annex, not 12 months
old, illness forces sale, carpet
included, £595. 07814 817506.

REFURBISHED CARAVAN FOR
SALE! Central Heating and sleeps
8, £17,995. Deposits from 10%. 12
Month Park, Borth. Call Paul 07960
944721.

caravans wanted

CARAVAN WANTED. Cash on pick
up asap. Caravan wanted.
Call me on 07717 090817.

WANTED POP TOP caravan,
Ripido.
01902 746031.

fishing

FISHING TACKLE WANTED
anything considered. New or Old
01902 754019 or 07931 568716

sports & leisure

FreeAds

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

holidays

caravan parks

LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME for sale
on 5th Park, DG, CH, bar & restau-
rant. Child & pet friendly, 20 acres
walking woodland £24,995 inc
2017 site fees Call 01568 708 326.

BOOK YOUR ADVERTISEMENTS OR FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS ONLINE AT

bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

and become one of hundreds of customers who regularly receive exclusive special offers & discounts.



ClassifiedAds

3 Home & Services

carpets & furnishings

QUALCAST 1200 mower, used
once, £35. Panasonic microwave
oven, £50. Indesit worktop dish-
washer £50. 01902 703528.

ROYAL ALBERT old country roses
coffee set, unused £45, and four
seasons set of plates, new
condition, £25. 07548 684497.

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE CASH PAID TODAY
No amount is too small.
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Jewellery • Doulton • Worcester Maccroft
Lladro • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Per 47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07871 783206

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/
Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/
any live steam. Also Die Cast,
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219 / 07891 713547
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

furniture

BEAUTIFUL GLASS top oval dining
kitchen table, 4 chairs, excellent
condition, £50. Telephone 07895
806100.

BED, wardrobe, chest of drawers,
solid wood, white, all matching,
£200. Genuine calls only. 01902
496149.

CLICK CLACK cream leather sofa
bed, never used as a bed only sat
on, new was £900, sell £100.
Telephone 01902 652817.

MEMORY FOAM mattress, double,
still wrapped, easy care, sell £150
ono. 07521 857432.

SINGLE DIVAN bed, with head-
board, as new, never used, £35.
07885 806100.

TABLE AND FOUR CHAIRS
dark wood with matching corner
cabinet.
£200.
Light oak bookcase with
storage at bottom.
£200.
07814 276521.

THREE-PIECE SUITE, footstool,
excellent, top grade Italian leather,
cream, £279 ono. 01384 287461.

in your garden

A LANDSCAPING & GARDEN SERVICE
Regular Garden Maintenance.
Fencing supplied & fitted.
Jungles cleared & restored.
Garden tidy-ups. New lawns laid.
Paving, Hedge Cutting. Free estimates.
01902 683607 or 07939 634708

items for sale

HAVE YOU CHECKED your adver-
tisement today? We would respect-
fully remind advertisers that it is
their responsibility to inform the
publishers of any mistakes or inac-
curacies on the first day of publica-
tion.

MODEL PLANES, x10 plus 4 sets of
radio controls.
£350 o.n.o.
07857 893607.

AIR GUNS, VINTAGE/ ANTIQUE GUNS, SHOT GUNS, TANDERM- BIG BORE GUNS, TRAPS ETC WANTED. 07968 624202

READERS ARE ADVISED to care-
fully consider all of their options
before agreeing to the sale of any of
their items.

SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, plus
any Spectrum 128k +2 computer
wanted also any old Crash maga-
zines wanted. 01902 829189.

WANTED
J40 Pedal car, Auto cycle,
Sinclair C5, Vintage vending
machines, anything old, Old fire
arms.
01384 484309 or 07930
949337.

kitchens & bathrooms

WHITE BATH Mixer taps, electric
shower for wall, glass, folding
shower screen, as new genuine
reason for sale £95 01922 445236

t.v. / home entertainment

sales

SAMSUNG 65IN Curved TV, 4K,
Samsung Bluray 4K, still boxed, wall
PX with car, cost £2,600, sell
£1,650. 07572 348364

32INS FLAT SCREEN TV, Sanyo, 2
years old, Freeview built in, £70.
SOLD.

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST
Any TV Repair, Plasma, LED etc.
CCTV cameras supplied & fitted.
Any area. Free Estimates, 7 days.
Digital aerials, Sky installation, Wall
mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"TV Link are really pleased with their response from their Classified Campaign"

Bill - TV Link

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

specialists at your service

aerials

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract"

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

garden services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per
garden. 25 years experience. Call
01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 days of quality fencing, concrete posts,
gravel boards. £695
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Parkway Rd, W.bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

ACE FENCING, A better quality
panel, Supply/Fit. Free Quotes. 31
Bank St. WV10 9DU. 01902 723910

garden services

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

ALAN JONES
THE ORIGINAL AERIAL SPECIALIST, THE BEST!
Est 1955 - 59 years at the top!
Recommended by thousands
Genuine, honest, 100% reliable.
WE HAVE WATCHED THEM ALL COME AND GO
Call: 01902 885985
ANY PROBLEM SOLVED

AERIAL & SKY SPECIALIST
CCTV cameras fitted/iv wallmount,
free quote/any area. 07850 330251

CLEAR VISION AERIALS Free-
view, FreeSat, Sky, CCTV, Aerials
from £79. Dishes from £79. OAP
DISCOUNT. Tel: 01902 752036.

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
SATELLITE & CCTV
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01902 716029
07833 738857

alrms/security

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

appliance repairs

A SAME DAY REPAIR - Cookers
Autos Fridges Vacs and Micros.
Call 07900 578897 / 07801 748653.

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including:
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,
driveways & landscaping.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

domestic cleaning

CLEAN for you (midlands ltd)
Domestic Cleaning & Ironing Service.
Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.
Call Anita on: 07954 163 804.

domestic repairs & services

SAME DAY LOW Cost Repairs.
Washers, Dryers Electric Cookers.
12 mths guarantee. 07850 355552.

drain clearance

ALL DRAIN AND SEWER
Blockages cleared fast.
Call Fast Clean: 01902 736424.

driveways & patios

CRETE BY DESIGN
Concrete Imprinting
• BLOCK PAVING • TARMACING
FREE QUOTES
01902 489633 (day)
or 01902 604187 (eve)

electrical services

A BARGAIN PRICED house re-wire,
fuseboards etc. Grahams Electric.
01902 842739, 0783 471949.

ALL HOME ELECTRICS NAPIT
registered. Fully insured. For a free
quote call 07583 320318.

fencing

plumbing & heating

K NASH & SON CH, combi boiler &
6 radiators £2200. 7 year warranty avail-
able 01902 790327/07973 721206.
www.knashandsonheating.co.uk

plumbing & heating

plumbing & heating

plumbing & heating

plumbing & heating

gas fitting

A BOILER BREAKDOWN, COOKER, FIRE, FITTED-SERVICE-REPAIRED

Landlord certs.
All areas covered.
J&E Heating.
Call John:
01902 562664
/07969 687832

GAS SERVICES

• Boilers • Cookers
• Fires • Gas Checks
• Landlord Certificates
• Gas Leaks Traced
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs

Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

handyman services

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN

FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed. Most trades
covered. References available on
request. No job too big or too small
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 6010479

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

planners & architects

plans prepared

plastering

plastering

plastering

plastering

plastering

plastering

plastering

plastering

plastering

plastering

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Keiron Jones Plumbing & Heating
Full heating systems £2200
Boiler Changes £1100
Longer warranty available upon request,
fires and surrounds also available.
For Free Quotes Call:
01902 403823 07811 855231

CLASSIFIEDS DELIVERS RESULTS

"We are really happy with our Classified advertising package and the business it brings us."

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

painters / decorators

CALL M & B DECORATORS

Free Quote
01902 494555

A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING
service by RC Decorating. Free
competitive quotes: 07773 025880.

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194
www.love2-wallpaper.co.uk

C I PAINTING & DECORATING
Over 30 yrs experience City &
Guilford approved. Free Quotes.
07913 732756 or 01902 650716.

C&D DECORATING City & Guilds /
Wallpapering, Tiling and Flooring.
Free quotes, call 07973 286288.

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans.
Drawn and submitted to council.
Tel: 01902 620200/0784 554037.
Email: adamdesign@sky.com

BUILDING PLANS, Prepared/submit-
ted, K J Bradley 01902 373248
07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING
Services. Home/Garden Improve-
ments. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE
Clean and Reliable, All Work
Undertaken, All Areas. Call
0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof
repairs, fascias and gutters. Call
01902 398989 / 07580 456449.

S T ROOFING All roofing work
carried out. Call: 01902 884705 /
07841 842824

25% OFF SF ROOFING & GUTTERING
25 YEARS EXPERIENCE!
Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced,
all repointing, gutters repaired and replaced.
BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED
Call Sean 01902 829158 8am to 8pm

SAFE

SAFE

SAFE

SAFE

SAFE

SAFE

SAFE

SAFE

ONE STOP ROOFING

The Flat Roofing Specialists
Specialising in: Felt, Fibreglass
& Tiling, Repointing & Chimney
Repairs, Fascias and Guttering.
All repair work undertaken

FOR 1 MONTH ONLY
GET YOUR FLAT ROOF
REPLACED WITH FIBREGLASS
FOR THE SAME PRICE AS A FELT
ROOF & GUARANTEED
FOR 25 YEARS
(Felt only 10 year guarantee)

 Family Business est 30 Years
0800 0855277 or 07538471274

**New Roofs,
Slatting, Tiling,
Flat Fibre,
Chimneys, Guttering, Ridges,
Flashings uPVC Fascia Cladding.**
**0121 602 0346
07904 736165**



removals

A CHEAPER REMOVAL
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL REMOVALS
FULLY INSURED - 7 days
**01902 89 49 16
07807 77 30 35**



**A & M CHEAP
REMOVALS**
Local
Careful Firm
Full or Part Loads
Call Don:
07749 941319

A2B REMOVALS Cheap and reliable
removal service. Insured.
07817 842980 or 01902 744829.

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your
Removal needs. 07429 453209/
01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN.
Removals, clearances, large/small.
01902 701943, 07899 635852.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

**KINGSWINFORD
REMOVALS
AND HOUSE
CLEARANCES**
We move anything.
Professional service,
45 years' experience,
DFS approved and we
take the stress away.
Please call:
07966 281957

rubbish removal

LET'S TALK RUBBISH No Skips
Needed/Load/Remove any Waste,
House Clearance. 07969 628382

showers

SHOWERS

Supplied/Fitted
Replaced/Repaired
Bath to Shower Conversions
Call James for a FREE quote.
07908 052470 / 01902 758494

**AN ABSOLUTE
AFFORDABLE
CASTLE
SKIP HIRE**
Mini, midi and
large skips
**GRAB HIRE AND
MINI DIGGER
AVAILABLE**
**01384 237577
01902 405745
07719 671845**

STONES SKIP HIRE
0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875
www.stoneskiphire.co.uk

upholstery

**CLASSIFIEDS
DELIVERS
RESULTS**



"I am very
happy with my
Express & Star
and Chronicles
Advertising
Campaign"

**Gary Downes -
Bilston Upholstery**

For great business
results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

AT BILSTON UPHOLSTERY Your
suite re-upholstered / repaired or
cleaned. Free Est. 01902 044698.

UPHOLSTERY SERVICES 3pcs/
springs/caravans/pubs/clubs/antiqu
es. 01902 689844 / 07817 842980.

**6
Property**

**accommodation
to let**

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek
independent legal advice before
entering into any financial commitments.

A ONE BED Annexe Flat. CH, DG,
New Kitchen & Carpets. Secure
OR Parking DSS ok 01902 686606

NOTICE TO READERS It is an
offence under the Accommodation
Agencies Act 1983, for an Agency
to charge a fee simply for the registra-
tion of your requirements and/or
supplying particulars of premises to let.

BEDSIT self contained room with
kitchen, unfurnished, suit single
working mature person. Penn Road
area, Heds req. 07486 379419.

RECENTLY REFURBISHED 1 and
2 bed flats. Halesowen, close to
Merry Hill, DSS welcome. Call
01562 885668 or 07831 200692.

ROOMS. Brierley Hill, great decor
and size, from £70pw including
bills. 07932 085127.

ROOMS NETHERTON Refurbished
with Parking. From £85 pwk Single,
£95 pwk Double inc bills. No DSS.
07970 717139 or 07940 116130.

TWO-BED HOUSE Top end of
Deans Rd, nr Bentley Bridge, mod-
ernised, excellent. £500pcm. Refs
req. DSS accepted. Available
immediately. 07932 706110.

**overseas
property**

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek
independent legal advice before
entering into any financial commitments.

**AT M&M
SKIPS**
Fast, friendly service
All areas covered
All sizes
Same day service
Freephone
**0800 619 0189
07904 915016**

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH!
No Skips, we load, fast friendly
service. 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2
8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

properties wanted

WE PAY 100% of purchase price **EVERY TIME!**



**BLACK
COUNTRY
HOMES**

Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE
You agree the price, we buy the house.

● NO AGENTS FEES ● COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
● FREE SOLICITORS ● ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION

**30
yrs**

0800 999 999 6
or **01384 500 500 24/7** **www.black-countryhomes.co.uk**
* subject to terms

CASH NOW **wolverhampton
properties**

**FOR YOUR
HOUSE**

• Legal Fees Paid
• No Fees
• Any Condition

• Guaranteed Offer
• Repossessions
Stopped

We can
buy your
house in

0800 389 6788 **days**
01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week **Terms applicable**

pink **sell quick**
run by women
0800 044 8109 Call free
24 hours
subject to terms
• No Fees* • Any area*
• Any property • Repossessions stopped
• Any condition • Deceased estates
• Free confidential service
01922 689023

**Private
Investor**

We are looking for houses in your area. We will
take any type of property in any condition.
Call us first - highest prices paid

07756 022973
Telephone
straight forward investment solutions

I CAN BEAT ANY PRICE!
I pay 100% of purchase price
Call now for the best price on your house
Guaranteed offer* • Free solicitors • Terms apply **GUARANTEED**
Any condition • No fees*
24 hours
Free phone
or landline **0800 783 2822**
01384 226086 **Devmark
Homes**

**Need to sell your
home fast?** **Purchase Agreed Within
7 DAYS**
We can help you
make a fresh start
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
With solutions to suit ...
you can clear your debts
and make a fresh start
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY

MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat? *Terms and
Conditions apply
01384 930 979 OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk



**CLASSIFIEDS
DELIVERS
RESULTS**

"We have been advertising
in the Express & Star
and Chronicles for over
20 years and consider it a
key part of our business
with the regular flow
of calls, which our
advertising generates."

Black Country Homes

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

LOOK
WE BUY ANY HOUSE

**national
homeowners
helpline.co.uk**

in a mess?
talk in confidence
we can help

WE PAY MORE
ANY AREA
ANY CONDITION

24-7 0800 085 7499

24-7 0121 308 7786

**STOP
WE PAY MORE!**
100% every time*
Free Solicitors No Fees*
Any Property*
Any Condition*
01902 628 047
* subject to terms

**CLASSIFIEDS
DELIVERS
RESULTS**

"I am really pleased with
the response
I get from my Classified
Advertising!"

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

ClassifiedAds **BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL**



**IT WORKS
FOR ME**

We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles
for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with
the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191

Brought to you by
Express & Star

**SELL IT FAST
SELL IT LOCAL**
01902 317878
ClassifiedAds

**4
Pets &
Animals**

**equestrian
corner**

ALL READERS are advised to
check if Horses have the required
Passport information.

FOUR WHEEL dray, as new, size
13.2 to 14.2, can deliver, £2475.
07761 379384.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that
they meet all necessary legal
requirements for owning and
using guns.

pets corner

**GREYHOUNDS MAKE
WONDERFUL PETS**
All neutered, incontinent
and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk
RG T Wolverhampton
@RGTWolves

AMERICAN COCKER Spaniels, 2
dogs, 3 bitches, very loving and
cute, ready to go now, vaccinated,
microchipped and wormed. Mom
and Dad can be seen. £450.
Telephone 07974 749908.

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

KIND HOMES WANTED
WINSTON - handsome Lab / Cocker Spaniel 2 years old.
DAVE - 2 year Bull Dog loves children and dogs.
BLUE - 11 months old Border Collie girl.
ANDY AND MISTY - 2 male 18 month old Chihuahuas, cream coloured.
MARLEY - 2 year old Border Collie cross lab.
MOLLY - 3 year old cross breed, plain jane but lovely natured.
01588 676106.
www.dogsamaritans.org.uk

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

plant, machinery & tools

R AND J SITE SERVICES LTD
Grab Hire, Plant Hire Groundwork and all types of aggregates. Anywhere in the Midlands.
Call 01384 211420 / 07793 079103
randjsiteservices@hotmail.com

plant, machinery & tools

WHY USE SCAFFOLDING?
When a Niftylift 120t will do the job!

from **£50** + VAT per day!*

Suitable for Trade & DIY Hire . Sales . Training . Service
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8 Motoring



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11 reg
Low mileage
MoT, group 1 insurance.
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£1,895.
07432 010478.

FIAT PANDA ACTIVE 1.1
2008, 50,000 miles, one owner, full service history, 12 months MoT. no advisories, excellent condition.
£1,650.
07977 939497.

MAZDA2 TAMURA 2013 32,000 miles, Black, A/C, FSH, Alarm, MoT, Central locking, 1 owner. Tax, Stereo/CD£5,500 07811 312039

MERCEDES A150SE CLASSIC. 2008, 41,000 miles, silver, fsh, alarm, MoT, one owner, pas, excellent condition, Kingswinford. £4,000. 07941 945660.

AUTOMATIC
MERCEDES COMPRESSOR CLC 1800CC
2009, 39,000 miles, 2dr, coup, silver, long MoT, alloys, leather interior, petrol with panoramic sunroof, lady owner, ,
£6,995.
07976 841809.

PEUGEOT PARTNER
2010, 7,500 miles, red, wheel-chair access vehicle.
£4,500.
01526 754127.

DIESEL
RANGE ROVER VOGUE
3.0 DIESEL
54 plate, full MoT, service history, good condition, genuine reason for sale.
£6,000 ono
07903 177567.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY
RENAULT MEGAN EXPRESSION
1.6, 2009, manual, petrol. only 27,000 miles, cam belt replaced, grey, 5-dr hatchback. Immaculate condition.
£3,750.
07886 930209.

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2010, 20,000 miles, black, electric windows, air con, fsh, full MoT, central locking, pas, CD, navigation system, 4 new tyres and rear pads.
£5,650 ono.
01902 782243.

LOW MILEAGE
RENUALT CLIO INITIALE
1.6 VVT 111
2006. 5 door. Hatchback. Champagne. Leather interior. Alloys. Tinted windows. Climate control. Cruise/ Speed control. E/W, E/M, CD radio. 36,000 miles. MoT'd. FSH. Rare model.
£2,750.
01384 401209/07739 837137.

SKODA YETI
2.0TDi, with spare wheel, silver, 8,800 miles, 11 months old, reason for sale is bereavement.
£14,950.
01547 530161. 07765 194970.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi
2011, 3 door, 33000, FSH, 2 owners. 12 months MoT, excellent condition.
£3,750
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2009, less than 60,000 miles, grey, MoT until Oct 2017 and safety checks all upto date, good reason for sale, 4 new tyres, paid £4,500.
£2,999 ono.
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07453 046600.

ESTATE
FORD FOCUS GHIA ESTATE
2000, 5Dr, red, MoT end of May.
£575 o.n.o.
More details on **01384 240744.**

BARGAIN
FORD KA 1.3
2001, 3dr, red, 54,000 miles, 6 months MoT, PAS, CD player, used daily, very good condition.
£480 o.n.o.
07512 124893.

FORD KA STREET
Luxury cabriolet convertible, 2003, blue, MoT October, economical and reliable.
£850.
07462 766144.

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5 door hatchback, Manual. 55 reg, 11 months MoT. Good little car. 1493cc diesel, colour red.
£450 ono.
01902 250100.

MINI COOPER
53 reg., red and white, half leather, MoT till September, just had a new clutch. Excellent condition,
£1,250.
07885 772238.

MUST BE SEEN
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03 reg, full MoT, FSH, 1 owner, excellent condition, black
£1,200. o.n.o.
01384 440258.

NISSAN ALMERA 1.5
2002, long MoT. excellent condition. PAS, central locking, electric windows, CD / MP3 player, Air con. Good reliable car.
£395 ono.
07831 168258.

NISSAN MICRA 1.3
1998, 49,950 miles, 6 months MoT, central locking, sunroof, alloys, CD, good condition, ideal first car.
£400.
01384 232586.

IDEAL FIRST CAR
PEUGEOT 106
5dr, 2002, 52 reg., one former keeper, 65,000 miles, excellent condition, MoT November, PAS.
£725 ono
07923 132859.

FOR A QUICK SALE
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2004, 2 litre, petrol, 73,000 miles, fsh, 2 owners from new. Six months MoT.
Good condition.
£850 ono.
Telephone **07968 289030 (Dudley).**

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2001, 1149cc, petrol, green, MoT till October 2017, good runner, no rot.
£300
01902 590989 / 07456 426674.

LOOK
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1600cc, 2002, silver, 5dr hatchback, petrol, lady owner the last 2 years, reliable car, new battery, approximately 75,000 miles.
radio / CD player, MoT till September 2017,
only £395 ono for quick sale.
07928 679949 or 07528 072920.

SUZUKI WAGON R+ GL
Y reg, 12 months MoT, 30,000 miles, two owners,
£550 ono.
01384 560037.

BARGAIN
VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.6 CLUB
2005, silver, 5dr hatchback, petrol, MoT October 2017, 109,000 miles, good runner.
£800
07812 372186.

classic cars

commercial vehicles
PEUGEOT PARTNER VAN 1.6 DIESEL S
5 doors, 2011, 116,000 miles, white. 12 months MoT. 2 owners, good condition.
£3,200 ono.
07825 937979.

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Local Specialists

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713 286
or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

CHRISTINE AUDREY NICHOLLS (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 6 Patricia Crescent Dudley West Midlands DY1 4NZ, who died on 06/01/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 19/03/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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LICENSING ACT 2003
MAJOR VARIATION
Application has been made to Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council to vary a premises licence under section 34 of the Act by Tesco Stores Ltd in respect of Tesco, KINGSWINFORD EXPRESS, MOSS GROVE, KINGSWINFORD, WEST MIDLANDS, DY6 9HP. The variation proposes a change and extension to the hours the store can sell alcohol (as indicated below) and also the removal of conditions on the licence.
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Tuesday 07:00 - 23:00
Wednesday 07:00 - 23:00
Thursday 07:00 - 23:00
Friday 07:00 - 23:00
Saturday 07:00 - 23:00
Sunday 07:00 - 23:00
The licensing register and a record of the application may be inspected at the offices of Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, Legal & Democratic Services, Unit 1, Hurst Business Park, Brierley Hill, Narborough Way, West Midlands DY5 1UF between normal office hours except public holidays. Any representation by a responsible authority or an interested party must be made in writing to the council by 06-Apr-17. It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application, for which a person is liable on summary conviction to a maximum fine of £5,000.

10 Personals

personal

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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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Dudley and surrounding areas.

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Express and Star,
Queen Street,
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Charter Standard Club
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Contact Tim: 07847 253889
Tony: 07977 308183

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Dudley/Kingswinford area.
Please contact
Ian 07896 154216 or
Sean 07794 274305.

general
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07974 069413.

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MATURE lady 70s, various interests but a bit lonely, hoping to meet a gent to cheer me up, come to the pub, we can have some fun together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426349
ATTRACTIVE well educated lady, mid 30's, solvent, professional, seeks discreet broad minded gent. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425891
GENTS, please call me if you are looking to meet a kind sincere lady for nights at the theatre, socialising etc. You can call or text me. I promise to reply, I'm very genuine. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426345
SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunet with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979
ANNABELLE, sophisticated 28yrs looking to meet older gent for adult fun, discreet, sincere, genuine advertiser. Text only Mailbox: 4157105
JACKIE is 54yrs and an attractive easygoing brunette, she's hoping to meet a similar minded chap for some fun, dates, chats, text or call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426343
KAREN, 52, 5ft5, short brown/blond hair, green eyes, medium build, GSOH, loving, caring and kind, likes to do lots of things, likes a laugh, WLTW similar gent, hope to hear from you soon! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425917

MICHELLE, 34, blonde blue-eyed happy female, loves heels and being feminine, OHAC, self sufficient, looking for male for long-term romance and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425669
AMANDA, slim blonde, 50s seeks discreet gent for special times, mutually beneficial to us both. Call now. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425327
SARA, 43, educated, independent, attractive female, nervous about dating through advertising, so pls don't disappoint me by not replying. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425703
BROWN eyed female, 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTW male 67-74 for LTR. Text only. Mailbox: 5501142
JEAN, 40, 5ft slim, busty blonde, now to dating and fed up of going through the pub scene, WLTW down to earth male for adult company. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425871
FEMALE, 66 yrs old, looks young, loves to laugh, n/s, who is genuine, caring and just wants to be loved again. Text only. Mailbox: 5750819
MARIE, very attractive curvy widow, longing for romance, seeking country-loving male with old-fashioned values for lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425999
ROZ, 43, tactile, sensual, loves to dress up, and wear heels, seeks genuine caring male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425597

Single Men
YOUNG 60, West Midlands male, 5ft8, grey hair, wear specs, GSOH, sexy Scorpio, broad minded, slim to medium build, varied interests, seeking a genuine, honest sexy lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426137
40 year old Hungarian male, 5ft8, slim, dark blond hair, blue eyes, WLTW a lady 30-45 to spend some time together for friendship. Text only. Mailbox: 5800702
SOLVENT gentleman, young 70s, loves life seeking a lady of any age to spoil and pamper, take on holidays, wine and dine. Genuine advertiser. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425935
WILLIAM, young 56, would like some adult fun with a sexy lady any age, wants and good time and discreet fun. Text only. Mailbox: 5321154
MALE, 60s, 5ft10, slim build, looking to meet female, for a mature adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426053
MALE, 58, works in agriculture, lives in North Shropshire area, likes the countryside, days at the coast even in the winter, meals out, looking for loving, caring, country girl, 50s-60s. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426037
SINGLE male, 31 years old, brown eyes, black hair, 6ft, seeks single slim athletic build lady similar age for fun, hopefully more. Text only. Mailbox: 4765584
CHRISTIAN, 57, 6ft, dark, likes walking, nice meals and socialising, looking for discreet times with a similar fun lady. If you are interested please contact me. I look forward to hearing from you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425947
STEVE, 59, sincere and genuine, likes pub meals, country walks and cinema, seeks Chinese, Tia, Black, Asian or Italian lady, looks unimportant but personality is, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425831
PROFESSIONAL gent, mid 60s loves holidays, wine dining, shows in London, seeking similar minded lady to romance. Own house car. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425941

ELLEN mid 60s seeks gent 50s-60s for friendship, possibly much more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425341
SUE 38yrs enjoys most things, meals in/out, easygoing, broadminded, passionate, slightly feisty, looking for adult fun, call me if you're interested in spicing things up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425587
BEEN looking for a lady friend to enjoy my retirement with, I enjoy going out for meals and would like some company. Text only. Mailbox: 5777872
JAY, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303
CALLING all ladies 40+ who would like to be wined, dined and romanced by attractive gent, 54 years please friend or text me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425943
JOHN, mid sixties widow, cultured and interesting, solvent with own home. WLTW lady 55+ for genuine companionship. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425939
GENUINE single gent, 55yrs, seeks friendship hopefully leading to true love with lady 35-55, looks unimportant. Please call or text me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425937
ADVENTUROUS 36-year-old male, slim, dark hair, has many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235
MARRIED businessman, mid fifties, seeks lady for discreet adult fun. Any age/looks unimportant. Text only. Mailbox: 5540119
MALE, 60, tall and slim, WLTW older female of larger build, any age, any status, for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425807
TALL male, 58, seeks larger woman, any age, for discreet fun, married or single. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425643
GENUINE male, 37, friendly and easygoing, enjoys sport and keep fit, WLTW genuine female 25-45, for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420253
TALL, dark, attractive female, 57, WLTW an attractive female for discreet daytime fun, 25-50. Can travel. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425759
MALE, late 60s, medium build, 5ft10, n/s, car owner, likes meals out, holidays, walks, WLTW slim, attractive female who enjoys similar activities for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425757
ATTRACTIVE Shrewsbury male, 50s, WLTW an attractive female, any age/status, for discreet daytime fun and excitement. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422801
GARY, 46, 5ft10, blue eyes, GSOH, likes football, quiet nights in, nights out, cinema, walking, travelling, looking for a likable woman, 35-50, bubbly and fun loving with a GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425441
I'm Andy, 52, looking for a lady, 50-65, for long term relationship, so text me and lets see what happens. Text only. Mailbox: 5396992
MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283
ATTRACTIVE male, 58, seeks adventurous female, 50-70, for close fun. Any status or size. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425535
DAN 46, easy going chap WLTW a lady 40+, for an uncomplicated discreet friendship with no strings fun. Discretion guaranteed. Text only. Mailbox: 5595608
WELL made broad male, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for some adult fun with lovely sexy lady, possible LTR or friends with benefits. Text only. Mailbox: 5321154
MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283
CHRISTIAN male 51, seeking Christian female, 35-45 for friendship, possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423747
MATURE male, 70s, tall, retired, recovering alcoholic, WLTW someone understanding, maybe in the same situation for friendship and mutual support. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425263

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Practice is all important before a fixture

Aussie rules in a game where going is tough

EVERYONE knows Wolves are the main football team in Wolverhampton. But did you know there is another football team in the city, also named after Wolves, and play in gold and black as well?

But this team doesn't play with 11 players on the pitch, or in the English football pyramid for that matter. Instead they go by the rules of Australian football, where you can pass with your fists and tackle someone off the ball.

Introducing Wolverhampton Wolverines Australian Football Club, who for the last eight years have been representing the city in the Antipodean version of the sport, which is 'rougher and tougher'.

Here they field nine players on rugby pitches where they have to score between four posts instead of two.

The team was founded in 2009 by PE teacher Ian Mitchell from Codsall and in that time the team's popularity has continually grown.

Charity

Wolverines play in the Australian Football League Central and Northern England division, and last year came close to winning it. They are currently in pre-season and soon will host a charity shield competition in aid of Balls to Cancer, where teams from all over the country will come to the Black Country to compete.

AFL Football has been described as a mix of sports by Mitchell, as it combines styles from English football, rugby and basketball.

"It is a lot rougher than football or rugby," he said. "You are allowed to knock people out the way and tackle people off the ball to within five metres," he said. "It combines a variety of sports, there are elements of basketball, rugby and football. There are also a wide variety of strengths that are useful to have in the game."

"In midfield it helps to have tall and short players. Tall players help to catch the ball and pass it to their team at the start of the match, which is kicked off with the ball being thrown in the air. But small players are quick and able to find space to run with the ball."

There is no goalkeeper in AFL, but there are defenders, midfielders and attackers. Traditionally the

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Jamie Brassington

"It is a lot rougher than football or rugby. There are a wide variety of strengths that are useful to have in the game"

sport is played as 18-a-side in Australia, Ian said, but because it is a 'minority sport' here, he says it would be hard to field that many players at the moment.

He set up Wolverines following a trip to Australia in 2006, after he had finished his university education.

During his year-long journey, where he travelled with friends from Melbourne to the East Coast and West Coast, he developed a passion for the game.

"I found I wasn't enjoying playing football anymore," said Ian. "I was watching a lot in Australia and also played a bit there."

When he came back to the West Midlands, Ian joined an AFL team in Birmingham before setting up Wolverhampton Wolverines.

Since then he says there have been around 70 different players who have come through the team, with some going on to represent Great Britain at international level.

"Last season several of our senior men became European champions with the Great Britain Bulldogs and one of our girls did the same with the Great Britain Swans," said Ian. "This season several of the senior men are hoping to be selected to go down to Australia in August to represent Great Britain in the International Cup."

He said the club was now focusing on producing women's and junior teams. The club used to play their home games at Wolverhampton and Willenhall Rugby Club but now they are based at Bloxwich Rugby.

Wolverines compete in the AFL England's Central and Northern League, where they compete against Birmingham, Nottingham, Sheffield, Manchester, Huddersfield, Merseyside and Tyne Tees.



Contact is not a problem in the Aussie game

Baggies heroes line up for charity clash

'SUPER' Bob Taylor, 'Big Dave' Darren Moore and 'Great Escape' hero Geoff Horsfield are among a strong Baggies line-up for a charity game in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice next month.

Former skipper Moore has been putting the Albion XI together to compete against a team of Stourbridge legends on Sunday, April 2 at the War Memorial Athletic Ground at Amblecote.

Also joining the Baggies line-up are Scotland international Nigel Quashie, Wales striker Andy Johnson, Ian Hamilton, keeper Jonathan Gould, father to Glassboys' current no 1 Matt, ex-Coventry and Blues frontman Dele Adebola, Danish shot-stopper Brian Jensen, Daryl Burgess and Paul Pechisolido.

Sponsorship opportunities for local businesses and for children to be mascots on the day are available. Call Amanda Bowen on 01384 377778.

The game will kick off at 2.30pm, with entry into the ground at £5 for adults aged 16 plus, and free for under-16s. The game will be preceded by a big family fun day from 1pm.

The debut event in April 2016 raised almost £15,000 and ended 1-1, with Bob Taylor and Damian Whitcombe on target in front of more than 2,000.

BCT's Sandland picks up aquathlon bronze

BLACK Country triathletes contended with low temperatures, wind and rain, as well as competitive fields as the spring duathlon season in the UK got under way.

Paul Rogers travelled to Cheshire to compete in the standard distance ITU World Championship Qualifier at Oulton Park which consisted of an 8.6km run, a 38.8km bike followed by a 4.3km run. He came home in 1:57:09, 38th overall and third in the MV50 age group.

The Mallory Park Racing Circuit in Leicestershire was the venue of choice for three of the junior male BCT athletes who competed in the GoTri Duathlon consisting of a 3km run, 11km bike and a 2km run. Despite the awful conditions all put in a sterling performance with Reece Ashfield finishing fourth place in 39:21, Ollie Mason came 12th in 45:27 and Ollie Evans 24th in 50:09.

Noah Sandland, from BCT's junior section, was the only club competitor racing in the Burntwood Aquathlon, but claimed a bronze medal for his third-place finish for his age group, completing a 400m swim in 5:58, followed by a 3k run in 15:31 giving an overall race time of 21:29. The BCT Aquathlon which is on Saturday March 25 at Wombourne Leisure Centre.

Tennis club serves up new chairman

WOLLASTON Lawn Tennis Club has signed in a new chairman.

Retired headteacher Alan Hughes has taken over the role following the club's AGM.

Hughes, who has been a playing member at the Wollaston Club for the last eight years, and has been the men's team captain for the past two seasons, takes on the role from lifetime member John Cutler.

Hughes said Cutler had been chairman through an exciting and busy period for the club. He said: "The club is in a very strong position with a hard working voluntary committee that has overseen the refurbishment of the clubhouse, four courts and a re-surfaced entrance to the premises."

"By next spring the club is hoping to have completed further substantial investment in the refurbishment of the remaining four courts with new high lighting."

The Prestwood Drive club boasts excellent facilities and provides an array of competitive team tennis, social tennis for all abilities as well as excellent opportunities for junior development. Hughes added: "Membership is thriving but there is always room for people of all ages and abilities."

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Riders to get on track for new season

CRADLEY riders are preparing for a busy few days as they take to the track for the new season.

The team will be put through their paces at practice sessions before heading to Birmingham for an opening night challenge match against the reigning champions next Wednesday.

Fans are reminded they can see the team at Monmore next Monday night when they join up with Wolverhampton for their press and practice night. Heathens are expected on track from around 7pm. Admission is available from 6.30 by donation, minimum £1, to charity.

Before then the riders will be together at Scunthorpe's Eddie Wright Raceway on Saturday afternoon.

Boss Will Pottinger said: "It's a big few days for the lads and everyone is looking forward to it."

"We had a great night at Cradley Heath Liberal Club last Friday when we got together and the lads were amazed by the turnout with a packed crowd to meet the riders."

"We're grateful to Scunthorpe to accommodate us on Saturday and we've asked some of our former riders to come along. Ash Morris will be there but Max Clegg, Paul Starke and Stevie Worrall are otherwise engaged."

"Then we're at Wolverhampton on Monday and that will be the first chance for our supporters to come along and see the lads. We're looking forward to that and, as always, thanks to Chris Van Straaten and Peter Adams at Wolves for having us."

"It will be a good workout for the lads at Birmingham next Wednesday, we're going there with a positive attitude – but it will also be good for us to get some laps around there before our opening National League meeting with King's Lynn at Perry Barr the following week."

"Some of the lads have had individual practice sessions, Danny Ayres was back on a bike for the first time in six months at the weekend, but it will be good to get us all together."

The club have also confirmed Graham Jones will once again be on board as coach/technical adviser to assist Pottinger on race nights.

Heathens have also sent their good wishes to Wolverhampton legend Peter Karlsson, a track specialist at the old Dudley Wood Stadium, for his farewell meeting at Monmore this Sunday.

Glynis, David take it to the bridge

GLYNIS Dovey and David Steele lifted the Tipton & Coseley Building Society trophies by winning the Sedgley Bridge Club annual club championship competition.

The club is keen to attract new members of all abilities and experience. The Sedgley & District Community Centre Ladies Walk, which hosted the tournament, hosts bridge on three afternoons per week, Wednesdays for rubber bridge, Thursdays for duplicate bridge and Fridays for those who want to learn the basics of the game.

For more, call Stanley on 01902 561908 or Keith on 01902 671728.

Trophy-winning trio mix it with stars



From left, Lloyd, Lowe and Shelley Pic: Tony Else

STARS of the motorbike world were on hand to present some of the region's finest club racers with their championship trophies.

The Moat House Hotel, Stoke-on-Trent staged The Stars at Darley and Club Championship Presentation of Awards and Annual Dinner.

Staffordshire's Lloyd Shelley and Andrew Lowe, and the Black Country's Neil Lloyd claimed their first, second and third place awards.

Trophies were presented by Ben and Tom Birchall, last year's World F2 Sidecar Champions, Brierley Hill's Michael Rutter, a multiple Stars at Darley winner, and last year's Stars at Dar-

Motorcycling

ley champion Peter Hickman, from Burton upon Trent.

Darley Moor spokesman Brian George said more than 350 people attended, including Stuart Hicken, team manager at Hawk Racing and Neil Tuxworth, team manager of Honda's British-based team in Louth, Lincolnshire, who was honoured for his 20 years in racing.

Lloyd, 46, from Wednesbury, finished both the Pre 98's Up to 500cc and Lightweight series in second place.

DK FIGHTBACK JUST TOO LATE

DK 15 Moseley Old Oak 24

MOSELEY Oak came to Heathbrook on a great day for rugby and after the reverse encounter, a 32-26 DK win, the crowd readied itself for another entertaining game.

Oak this time ran out 24-15 victors, with DK leaving it late before coming back into the game in the final quarter.

With the visitors leading 19-3 half-time, DK were left with a huge task to turn it round after the interval.

They did begin the second period with a renewed vigour – a result of the half-time team talk no doubt – and a flowing move saw the impressive Liam Marshall stopped just short of the Oak line. The pressure was maintained by an astute Tommy Huggins kick into touch, resulting in a line out close to the Oak line, but with their throw they were able to clear the danger.

The centre has shown some good form over the last month or so, but once again it came to nothing. Oak raided again and added a fourth try, for a 24-3 lead.

Powered

In the final quarter, with DK behind, they suddenly gained momentum. It looked like it is just a question of time before they added to their score.

Danny Hawkins powered to the line to reduce the deficit and an important conversion was added.

Into the last ten minutes DK got their phase play going and the forwards started to draw in the defence on the right and the back line was arrayed to the left. A well-timed release of the ball to the backs saw Liam Marshall cross the line in the clubhouse corner, making it 15-24, the kick was wide out, but Duncan Tompkins narrowly missed the conversion.

The proverbial kitchen sink was thrown at the Oak line in the dying minutes but to no avail.

Should DK be left wondering about this game, there will be the what ifs, Tommy Walker went close twice in the first half, but was bundled into touch by the cover each time, while two difficult Tompkins kicks would have secured the bonus point.



Connah Jones spots a gap near the goal and goes for it as DK take on Moseley Old Oak

'Not at races' as Glassboys draw blank

Stourbridge 0 Mickleover 0

ASSISTANT manager Jon Ford admitted Stourbridge got what they deserved after being held to a frustrating Evo-Stik Premier stalemate by Mickleover Sports on Saturday.

The Glassboys were chasing a fifth successive league win but struggled to break the resistance of a stubborn Sports side

and meant third-placed Stour missed a rare chance to close the gap on leaders Blyth Spartans.

"It's frustrating – we weren't at the races," Ford said. "Overall we didn't create enough."

Halesowen 1 Spennymoor 2

HALESOWEN slumped ever closer towards the relegation zone after play-off contenders Spennymoor came from behind.

The visitors also struck the woodwork three times and had an effort cleared off the line by Asa Charlton.

Yeltz took the lead through Ben Clarke's deflected 16th minute effort.

Moors drew level in the 24th minute when Joe Tait netted and Jamie Chandler scored a 74th minute winner.

Youngsters on ball to represent county

FOOTBALLERS from Hagley Primary won the English Schools Football Association u-11 seven-a-side competition for Worcestershire at South Bromsgrove High School and will now represent the county in the Midlands area contest.

Having qualified by winning the Wyre Forest District ESFA u-11 competition, Hagley went on to beat the winning schools from Malvern, Redditch, Bromsgrove and Worcester to progress to the Midlands area competition as Worcestershire's representatives.

That takes place in Nottingham on Saturday.

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